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September 1976

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# Inside Wrestling

HOW MUCH LONGER CAN  
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THE  
TITLE?



"I WANT TO WIN  
A WORLD TITLE!"

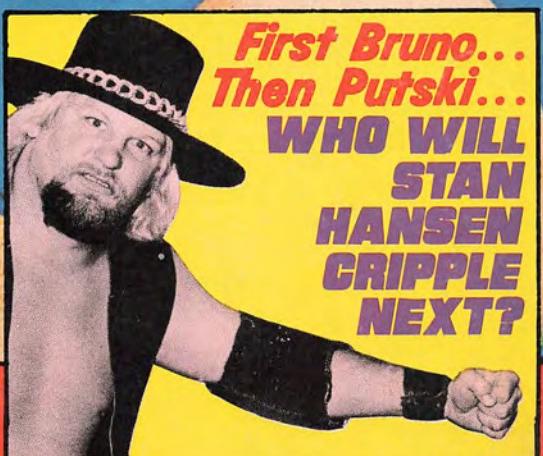
Andre's  
Shocking  
Change of  
Heart:



09

IS LORD AL HAYS THE SPY  
IN JIM DILLON'S STABLE?

THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE IGOR-BROWER FEUD



First Bruno...  
Then Putski...  
**WHO WILL  
STAN  
HANSEN  
CRIPPLE  
NEXT?**

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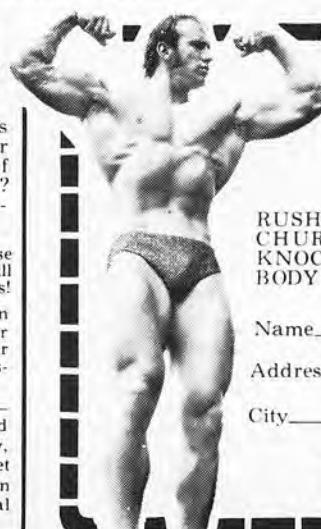
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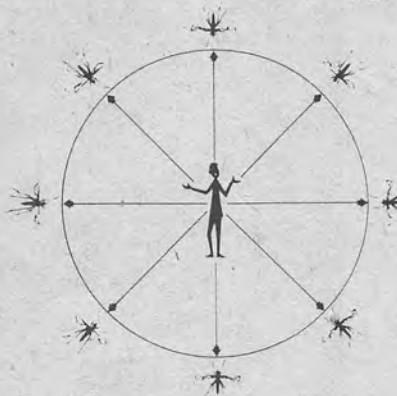
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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King

Editor-in-Chief

TOKYO, JAPAN--After being an eyewitness to the Antonio Inoki-Muhammad Ali "wrestler vs. boxer" bout here in Japan, all I can say is that the decision calling this match a draw was a total outrage! I had Antonio Inoki ahead 13 rounds to two for Ali. Just look at the facts: Ali threw only four punches throughout the entire bout. Meanwhile, Inoki scored time and time again with deadly leg sweeps. At the end of the match Ali's left leg was bloody, swollen, and extremely sore. On the other hand, Inoki was as fresh as a daisy. Antonio, you were robbed!

\*\*\*            \*\*\*

I was very happy to hear about WWWF champion Bruno Sammartino's successful and dramatic comeback against Dangerous Stan Hansen at New York's Shea Stadium. I'm only sorry I couldn't be present for this great event, but I was on assignment here in Japan, covering Ali vs. Inoki. Fortunately, two of my colleagues, Bill Apter and Randy Gordon, were present at Shea Stadium. Bill and Randy are currently combining their talents on the exclusive story, which will be published in this month's (September) issue of our sister publication, THE WRESTLER. Also in that issue of THE WRESTLER will be exclusive stories on the Ali-Inoki fight as well as the clash between wrestler Andre the Giant and boxer Chuck Wepner. And, by the way, can there be any doubters left who still believe that a professional boxer can defeat a professional wrestler in a mixed-match? I really don't think so.

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*The identity of Mr. Wrestling II is still a secret, despite the threats of Stan Stasiak to reveal the name of the man behind the mask. Mr. Wrestling II believes Stasiak's threat to be nonsense.*

**M**ACON, GEORGIA—I came to the Peachtree State to investigate some rumors I had been hearing about Mr. Wrestling II. According to the reports I had heard on the road, Stan Stasiak was threatening to reveal to the world the identity of the famous masked grappler. I wondered how Mr. Wrestling II was reacting to the stories.

I soon found out.

I try not to visit the State of Georgia during the summer. The heat in that part of the country is a little too much for my northern blood. However, the climate was rather nice on the day I made my trek to see the masked wrestler. The mild temperatures seemed to have put both myself and Mr. Wrestling II in a better frame of mind to talk about a rather hot subject.

I found him sitting on a bench in a nice shady grove in one of this city's beautiful parks. It wasn't hard to miss him—he was the only person around wearing a mask and surrounded by autographs seekers. We exchanged pleasantries to a few

minutes before I came around to asking him the important question: What did he think of Stasiak's threats to reveal his identity?

He sat on the bench pensively for a few moments, trying to calmly collect his thoughts on the matter. Finally, he spoke: "You know, there really isn't much to say about the whole silly thing. I mean, there is no possible way Stasiak could possibly know who I am. I've heard all the stories he's been circulating. He demands I leave wrestling or else he'll tell everyone whose face is under this mask."

"To tell you the truth, I am not scared of him at all. There is no way I am going to leave wrestling just because of a bum like Stan Stasiak. There's another thing you should know. I've heard who he thinks I am under this mask. He's wrong."

Mr. Wrestling II's statements didn't surprise me, to be honest. I never believed he would quit because of Stan Stasiak. I had also heard who Stasiak thought the masked grappler was. However, I

*(Continued on page 50)*



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# 'TOP SECRET'

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy  
Gordon

WELL, IT'S BEEN another unbelievable month, capped of course by Ali-Inoki Wepner-Andre the Giant, and more importantly, Bruno vs. Stan Hansen.

I've been receiving your letters by the bagful every day, and I tell you—it's a lot of work. As there are so many letters, I can only get to a handful at a time. So as I travel around the country I'll ask each wrestler as many questions as I can, then give the information back to you.

Many letters came in over the past month asking the condition of Bruno's neck. Well, as you saw against Hansen, his neck is fine. And it's a fact I'm so glad to report. I'll be honest—when Bruno had his neck broken, I thought this great wrestler and class-A gentleman's career was over. But Sammartino recovered, and is back as good as ever.

While talking about Stan Hansen, heard a juicy rumor in Shea Stadium while in one of the dressing rooms. I understand not long ago, Stan lost down south to Rick Martel in an unbelievable nine seconds! After the match, Hansen supposedly attacked Martel as Rick's back was turned, and Stan hurt him pretty bad. I'll see if I can confirm all this from Martel. Hansen says the story is not true.

Peter Calabrese, 22, of Yonkers, New York, wrote to me saying he'd like to wrestle Superstar Billy Graham. Peter claims he is 6-3 and weighs 165 pounds. When I told Superstar about the challenge, he laughed and said, "He's much too light. Why, I lift over 200 pounds with one hand. I'd feel like a child-beater facing somebody that small. Even men who weigh twice what I

(Continued on page 52)

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# NAMES MAKI

FRED BLASSIE trying to get MUHAMMAD ALI a mixed match against WWWF kingpin BRUNO SAMMARTINO . . . JOSE LOTHARIO teaming with the legendary EL SANTO . . . BOB ORTON JR. copped Florida's top honors from JACK BRISCO . . . BUTCHER VACHON set for a series of matches in Southern California . . . UWA champion PEZ WHEATLEY showing top form, defeating all challengers in the Tennessee area.



**JOSE LOTHARIO**

TOMMY RICH furious that JERRY LAWLER is allowed to have manager SAM BASS at ringside to "help him" during their clashes . . . DUSTY RHODES retrieved a foreign object ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER used on him. It was a screwdriver! Dusty's going to present it to NWA officials with hopes they'll ban the Sudanese madman . . . ANDRE THE GIANT claims he's won more battle royals than any other wrestler in history.



**BOB ORTON JR.**



**IVAN PUTSKI**

THE BOUNTY HUNTERS have their hands full with JERRY JARRETT and COWBOY FRANKIE LAINE hot on their trail . . . THE ISLANDERS thinking about signing a lucrative contract offered by manager AL "KANGAROO" COSTELLO. They're scientific wrestlers—Costello manages rulebreakers.



**SAM BASS**

They'd have to play things his way if they sign with him. They're not sure they want to do that at this time . . . IVAN PUTSKI furious that STAN HANSEN is still allowed to use "The Lariat" in his matches . . . DOM DENUCCI almost busted GEORGE STEELE'S head when he smashed "The Animal" into a concrete wall during a Midwestern melee.

THE MONGOLIAN STOMPER still has not been soundly defeated in any Texas battles . . . JERRY BRISCO out to destroy BOB ORTON JR. . . PAMPERO FIRPO looks like he's got a great tag team partner in JOE LEDUC . . . RODDY PIPER lost a match, and his hair, when he grappled CHAVO GUERRERO in a "loser gets his head shaved" battle . . .

MR. MEXICO was unmasked. Popular TONY RUSSO was under the hood . . . JOHNNY POWERS put his "Powerlock" on the manager of BULLDOG BROWER—BILLY HINES—and nearly crippled him . . . BRUISER FRANK BRODY feuding with CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW and BILLY WHITE WOLF . . . DORY FUNK JR. "itching" to win a title. He misses the weight of the NWA belt he once wore around his waist. That belt now belongs to brother Terry.



**PAMPERO FIRPO**

PAT PATTERSON failed to regain the U.S. title he lost to MR. FUGI . . . DEAN HO negotiating to return to the east. "I miss the fans there so much!" exclaims the likeable Hawaiian who's now wrestling in the Seattle area . . .

# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...



**DEAN HO**

CHRIS TAYLOR bodyslammed ANDRE THE GIANT in a wild battle royal in Nebraska. That's a first! . . . THE EXECUTIONERS sweeping up all competition . . . PEPPER GOMEZ would like nothing better than to cripple BARON VON RASCHKE . . . More rumors circulating about the much talked about hard feelings between IVAN KOLOFF and SUPERSTAR GRAHAM. The two still deny there is any trouble between them.

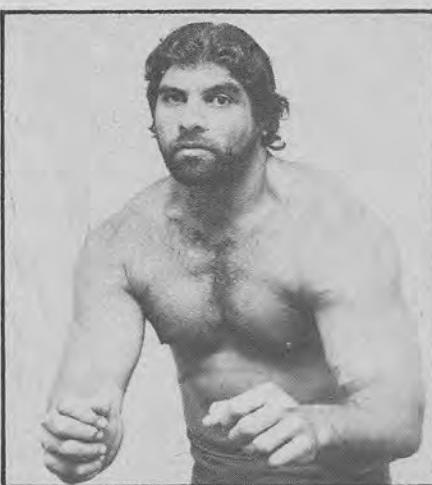


**GREG VALENTINE**

TIM WOODS and DINO BRAVO copped an important win over THE ANDERSON BROTHERS . . . RED BASTIEN predicts that LORD AL HAYS will "come to his senses and get out of JIM DILLON'S army one of these days." . . . GREG VALENTINE, globetrotting, has settled in Florida for now. Chances are he'll join ROCK HUNTER and his crew . . . Judo champion WILLIAM RUSKA donning wrestling tights and winning matches in California.



**MIL MASCARAS**



**DON MURACO**

MIL MASCARAS busy wrestling in Mexico and reading the thousands of contest entries in our exclusive "WIN A MIL MASCARAS MASK"



**CRUSHER VERDU**

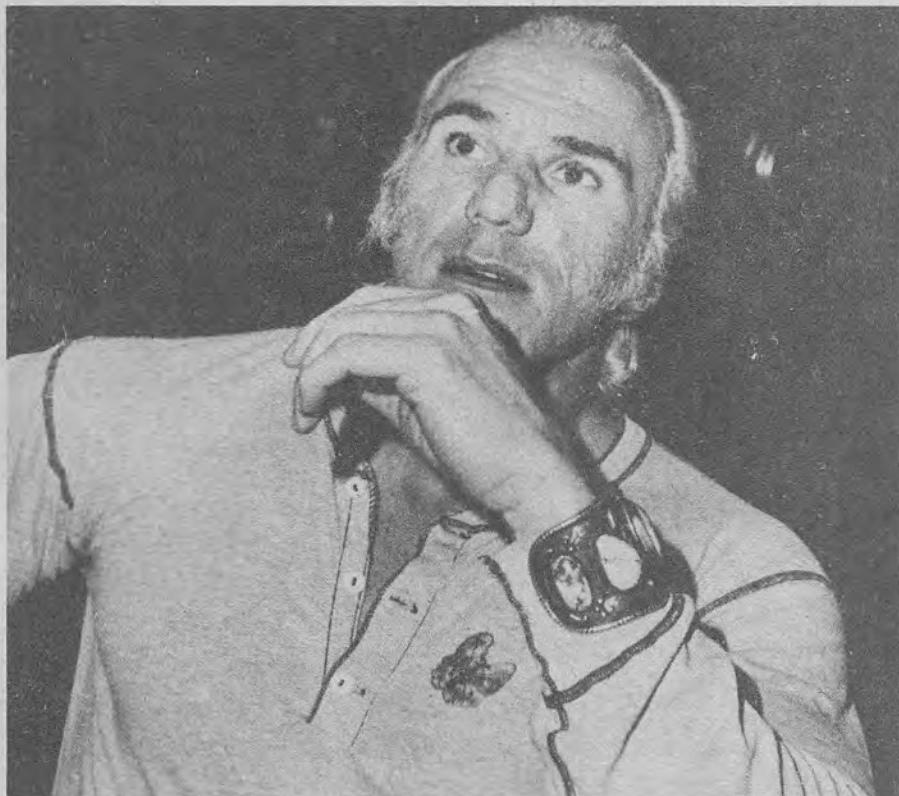
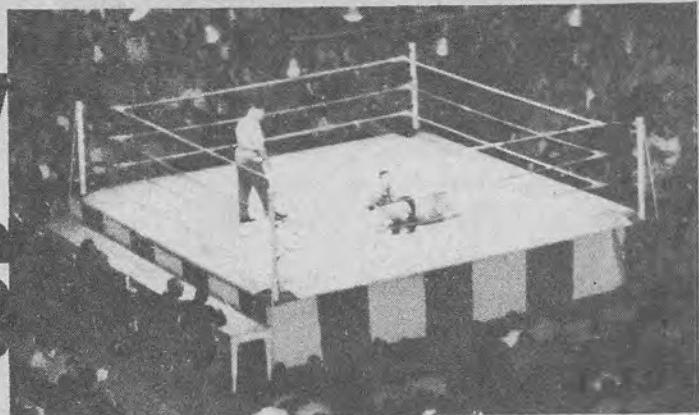
contest. The winner will be announced in an upcoming issue . . . DON MURACO continuing his rule bustin' ways . . . DICK MURDOCH was offered a large role in a western movie. He nixed the offer. "That kind of stuff is fine for John Wayne," noted Dick. "I'd rather spend my time 'rasslin'" . . . OX BAKER squared off against THE SHEIK in one of the wildest brawls ever. You guessed it. The match wound up as a double disqualification!



**OX BAKER**

JOHN TOLOS protesting a recent loss to CRUSHER VERDU. "The guy fouled!" claims the "Golden Greek." . . . BOBBY HEENAN, manager of AWA Champion NICK BOCKWINKLE, says, "Nick is getting tired of beating the bums they're putting up against him. Isn't there any decent competition around?" . . . BUDDY WOLFF boasting he's found a sure way to defeat BRUISER in less than five minutes—and he's willing to bet a bundle of money he can do it! . . . DOUG GILBERT announced at a press conference he'll be grappling in WWWF arenas and he wants a shot at the title. "I don't want any preliminary garbage!" Gilbert said. "I'm main event—championship material—all the way!" □

# SINCERELY YOURS



Billy Graham (above) is congratulated by fans for his revealing interview in INSIDE WRESTLING. Fans were enraged by the savage tactics of Ivan Koloff against Bruno Sammartino (right).

## THANK YOU

I just wanted to write and compliment you on the new INSIDE WRESTLING. I really enjoyed the "On the Road" article. Jack Brisco has to be the greatest wrestler in the world. "Billy Graham's 10 Darkest Secrets" was also very good. The "Names Makin' News" article is very informative and so was "How I Broke Into Professional Wrestling." As for the "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" article, I think having two referees is a great idea. I also like the idea of how to referee the battle royals. Your "Question of the Month" was also very good.

One thing I don't like is when you let rulebreakers write things about how

they destroyed some other wrestler. That just wastes valuable space.

BRENDA JACKIE LEE  
Indianapolis, Ind.

## HOW TRUE IT IS

This is in reference to the cover of INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976, where it says, "The Magazine That Rips The Lid Off Pro Wrestling." I feel that is very true. I buy INSIDE WRESTLING every month. I think all your issues are great!

DENNIS McKEEVER  
Bronx, N.Y.

## CONSIDER THE SOURCES

I've just re-read the article,

"Sammartino's Opponents Declare: Bruno Is the Dirtiest Wrestler in History" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976). I would just like to say, consider the sources.

The entire article is so packed with lies, it is unreal. In every statement made by these "wrestlers," it is apparent they were all well-rehearsed "claims."

Bruno is the greatest wrestler in the world. The belt he so proudly wears attests to this. If he weren't, one of those bums would be wearing it. They had all had title shots and lost, because they're just not good enough.

It really makes me mad to hear these



claims made by poor losers like them. The champion gets mad when they use those tricks, so he reverses the tables and their ego can't take that kind of abuse.

The belt is where it should be—around the waist of Bruno Sammartino, who wears it proudly and deserves it.

JANET PAPINCHAK  
Pittsburgh, Penn.

## THEY'RE NOT AS GOOD

In your article, "Has the Punishment Taken Its Toll" (INSIDE WRESTLING/June 1976), it said Bruno wrestles an average of four to five times a week. That is a pretty tough schedule to beat. Can Ivan Koloff, Billy Graham, Ernie Ladd, Bobby Duncum, and Spiros Arion make a similar claim?

Bruno has to be the toughest and strongest wrestler in history. He has more stamina than any other wrestler I have ever seen. I don't think the punishment has taken its toll. I think Bruno will be champion for a long time!

DAVID TRASKUS  
Wilkes-Barre, Penn.



## DON'T PUT THEM DOWN

After reading the letter by a girl in Hawaii in INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976, I decided to write this. So many times I see letters putting wrestlers down, saying they are no good, name calling, etc.

So what if Dom DeNucci made a small mistake in his match against Billy Graham? It lost him the match, but it was a human error. So many times I've heard Billy Graham called "Superstar." How honestly dumb can you be?

I think both Billy Graham and DeNucci are great wrestlers, and nothing should be taken away from either one of them. They are only human.

LYNN WEISS  
Robbinsville, N.J.

## THERE IS MORE THAN ONE

I enjoyed your article entitled, "The One Man Who Scares Terry Funk to Death" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1976). Unfortunately, it should have



*Left: Jerry Lawler is told by critics to stop bragging and give Memphis a little peace and quiet! Above: Terry Funk has a rough time against the great rookie, Chavo Guerrero.*

been called "One of the Men Who Scares Terry Funk."

Terry Funk is a paper champion. He will never be in the class of Bruno Sammartino, who unfortunately has to battle all the idiot, crazy wrestlers in his league. Terry Funk is running scared. The "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes, has Terry Funk begging his big brother Dory Jr. to protect him. Terry can't wage his own battles. He is yellow through and through.

Look out Terry Funk—The "American Dream" and Jack Brisco are going to get you when you least expect it. Only a real man deserves to wear the NWA belt—not a sniveling coward!

KEN CHANCE  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

## MEMPHIS MOTOR-MOUTH

Jerry Lawler of Memphis claims he can defeat any wrestler there is. I hope the following wrestlers come to Memphis and shut Jerry Lawler's big mouth: John Tolos, Mil Mascaras, Billy "Superstar" Graham, Bobo Brazil, Ivan Putski, Dusty Rhodes, and Jim Valiant. PLEASE come to Memphis and clean it up.

PAUL SPURRYER  
Ripley, Miss.

## EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES

I enjoyed your article "Never Underestimate Baron Scicluna" (INSIDE WRESTLING/June 1976) immensely. I think it is about time someone recognized the extraordinary wrestling abilities of the big Baron.

Although his tactics are unorthodox, he has given many respectable battles to the likes of Bobo Brazil, Ivan



*Fans of Baron Scicluna (above) were delighted when a recent story praised his fine skills.*

Putski, and Tony Parisi. I feel if they can give someone like Ernie Ladd a shot at Sammartino's belt, why not Scicluna.

As a long time admirer of the Baron, I thank you for such an interesting article.

GREG CHRISTIANSON  
Brooklyn, N.Y. □

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# Body Slams & Pinfalls

By DAN SHOCKET

IT'S ABOUT TIME someone told the yo-yos who riot at wrestling matches they are degenerate scum who don't belong in a public place. Rather than sell these cretins tickets, they should get a one-way ticket to the nearest funny farm!

No matter what you think of certain wrestlers, no fan is judge and jury. Only a wrestler should punish another grappler. It is not up

wrestlers are hurt. One shouldn't have to risk life and limb just to go to a wrestling match.

Unfortunately, wackos and fruit-loops are becoming more prevalent. Knives are being seen with increasing frequency; even guns are not unknown. Is this an athletic contest or open warfare? Civilized people don't have to put up with this kind of dangerous nonsense.

No one wants to be searched before going into a wrestling arena—it's demeaning and humiliating. Yet, the decent wrestling fans may have to sacrifice his rights to halt the rampage of a small, disgusting minority. Wrestling arenas may be turned into war zones.

One wonders how a sport founded on grace and agility could attract such ignorant simpletons. Are they so stupid, so moronic, they must behave like primitive animals? Can't they use their brains instead of weapons to express displeasure? Aren't they ashamed to advertise they belong in the gutter?

The wretched few are betraying the fans who make this sport such a successful enterprise. Wrestlers have every right to shun a public which contains marauding lunatics. The intimacy once enjoyed between wrestler and fan is in real jeopardy. Only a major reversal of this violent trend can overcome this.

Most wrestlers disliked by the fans can show scars from attacks by lunatic fans. No matter how cruel a wrestler, he or she doesn't deserve to be knifed or assaulted by gangs. Anyone who wants to settle some scores should become a professional wrestler, not a coward who needs a knife or gun



Blackjack Mulligan was knifed by a fan and had to have 50 stitches to close the wound!

to the fans to mete out justice. Anyone who takes the law into his own hands should be put where he belongs—behind bars for a good long time!

Not only are rioting fans dangerous, they're dumb! Fans are injured by other fans throwing bottles, BB's, pins, and other such weapons a diseased mind can acquire. Often, some spectators are injured even more than the



Wolfman was knifed by a moron in fan's clothing and was out of action for several months.

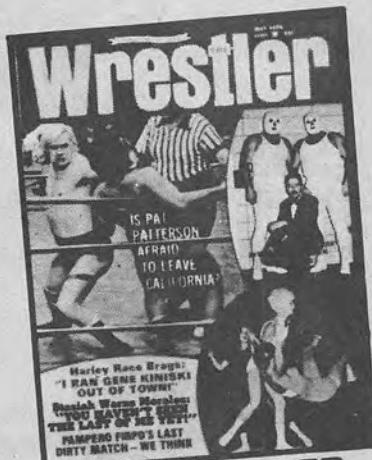
to supplement his inferiority. There's no excuse for the degenerate behavior of cowardly assailants.

The decent fan is unfortunately being put into a position where he must be police for the people in his area. If he sees one of these animals, he should notify a special policeman immediately. These men are trained in getting rid of these malignant cancers.

Now, there may be some misguided people who think you shouldn't tell the police about these vile vermin—after all, doesn't that make them squealers? And anyway, people should be able to settle their own scores. Special police aren't a real alternative.

(Continued on page 60)

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# NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS



*Sheik is reduced to a mass of bloody flesh after his war against Ox Baker (above). As expected, Baker was in equally mangled shape. When two men like Sheik and Baker get together, the only result possible is a bloodbath—with no resemblance to wrestling!*

## TORONTO MAT ACTION By Keith Gibbs

**M**ANIACAL WARFARE WAS the main topic as The Sheik took on Ox Baker. Sheik accompanied by his troublemaking manager, Abdullah Farouk, had his hands full as Baker bit, punched and kicked the Arabian wildman. He was so vicious, Farouk finally had to get on the ring apron to distract him. When Ox went after Farouk, Sheik took out a foreign object he had hidden in his trunks. Then Sheik turned the tide. He sliced Baker's forehead until Baker was a bloody mess and unable to continue.

The Beast drew with Sweet Daddy

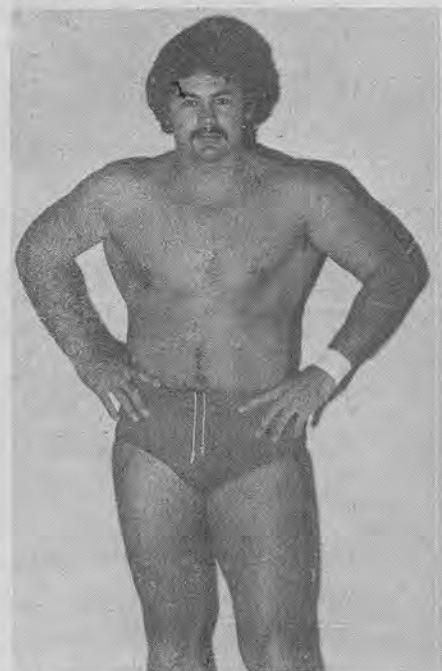
Siki . . . Waldo Von Erich whipped Duncan McTavish . . . Carlos Rocha downed Reggie Love . . . Andre the Giant demolished Golden Boy Apollo and The Wildman . . . The Crusaders took the nod over The Kelly Twins.

## IOWA RUMBLES By Roger L. Higgins

Harley Race finally came to Iowa to take on the Super Intern. Fans here were delighted to see Race get this match as someone was needed to teach the masked rulebreaker a good lesson.

Race dropkicked Intern out of the ring early in the match. The masked man returned with a foreign object he had hidden in his mask. It was some-

thing he picked up on the ring floor. He headbutted Race until Harley was bleeding profusely. Race went berserk at the sight of his own blood. He grabbed Intern and began trying to Rip off the mask. Intern's friend, Bulldog Bob Brown, ran in and knee-dropped Harley, causing Intern to be disqualified for outside interference.



*Alberto Madrill had a rugged time against Invader #1 but still managed to emerge from the bout victorious (above).*

## CALIFORNIA CALLING By Larry Barnhizer

Alberto Madrill, the sensational Mexican star, was pitted against Invader #1 in a two out of three fall match.

Madrill dominated the first fall with dropkicks. After locking Invader in a half-Boston crab, Alberto won the first fall.

Invader quickly evened things with his famous nerve hold. Alberto held on



*Abdullah the Butcher went to Atlanta to get Dusty Rhodes, but got bloody instead (above)!*

as long as he could but finally had to submit. The match was now even.

Although badly weakened, Madrill managed to get a flying attack in progress. Again and again dropkicks took their toll. Finally a repeat of the half-Boston crab saw Alberto leave in victory.

#### PENNSYLVANIA POWER By Michael Willis

Scranton's Catholic Youth Center hosted the latest battle between arch-enemies Superstar Billy Graham and Ivan Putski. Putski and his "Polish Power" took an early advantage. Midway through the match, the two collided, crashing into the referee. While the referee was down, Ivan went over to help him to his feet. Meanwhile Graham found a foreign object a fan had tossed into the ring. When Ivan went back to battle, Graham beat him bloody with it. Finally Putski, weak and dazed, fell out of the ring and Graham was given the nod.

In other action: Kevin Sullivan and Pete Sanchez wrestled to a draw . . . Rocky Tomayo was disqualified against Pat Barrett . . . Bobo Brazil and Ernie Ladd wound up in a "no contest" . . . Dom DeNucci upset Baron Scicluna.

#### MID-ATLANTIC BATTLES By Laura J. Zoffha

Wahoo McDaniel only tasted the glory of the Mid-Atlantic title for two weeks. He defeated Ric Flair to take the honors. But the sly "Nature Boy" won it back, and sent McDaniel to the hospital, adding injury to insult.

During the wild rematch, the two were battling outside the ring. Flair



*Above: Billy "Superstar" Graham loses a test of strength against Ivan Putski, but used his wiles to confound the Polish mat star. Below: Ric Flair dons his splendid robe before meeting Chief Wahoo McDaniel. Flair not only defeated Wahoo—he hospitalized McDaniel!*



broke a press table and beat Wahoo with one of the legs. The referee became involved in the melee and was knocked out when the wrestlers battled between him.

While the referee was still unconscious, Flair dragged the bloody and

now unconscious McDaniel back into the ring, and then helped the referee regain his senses. Then he applied a body press and the referee counted Wahoo out. Flair was the champion again and Wahoo took 47 stitches—staying in the hospital four days!

#### GEORGIA RASSLIN' By Paul Pressley

Gary Hart brought Abdullah the Butcher to Atlanta to deal with Dusty Rhodes. His objective — have The Butcher maim Rhodes and send him on a path out of Georgia forever.

As it turned out, Rhodes did the maiming and the Butcher found himself a bloody mess. Rhodes used a foreign object on Abdullah, opening a large gash on his forehead.

The fans were delighted as Abdullah got a taste of his own medicine. Even Hart got his lumps when he tried to interfere and Dusty creamed him!

Finally Rhodes had his hand raised after 10 minutes of blazing action. □

# HOTSEAT

## BRUISER: “I'M STILL THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN WRESTLING!”

**H**E'S BIG and he's mean. They call him "Wrestling's most dangerous man," and rightfully so. Causing riots and inflicting injury to his opponents was his early trademark. Back in the late 50s and early 60s he sent more adversaries to the hospital than any other wrestler on record. He became a fan favorite several years ago, though his tactics have not mellowed one bit. He is The Bruiser.

Q: Bruiser, welcome to the "Hotseat."

A: It's a pleasure being here in your New York office. You know I don't get to this part of the world too often.

Q: Why not?

A: I'm banned from wrestling in New York.

Q: Why?

A: I'm too rough for this town!

Q: Was there one specific incident that caused this?

A: Yes. It was many years ago, in the old Madison Square Garden. Me and my partner Dr. Jerry Graham roughed up Antonino Rocca and

Miguel Perez.

Q: That's it?

A: Hell no. We beat the tar out of them so bad that it started a major riot. Me and Jerry had been

“  
**Any man who steps into battle against me better know he's capable of leaving the ring a vegetable. I don't ask for mercy and don't give any.**  
”

feudin' with Rocca and Perez for a long time. Man, we give 'em their lumps. Their fans just couldn't stand it so they rioted. Looking back on that day I still don't regret it. We were justified in destroying them. But the fans were not justified in rioting. There's never a justi-

fication for that.

Q: Coming from you that's pretty hard to swallow. After all Bruiser was always a man who started his own riots!

A: Sure, but that was during *legal* combat!

Q: Do you feel you had the right to cripple opponents the way you did?

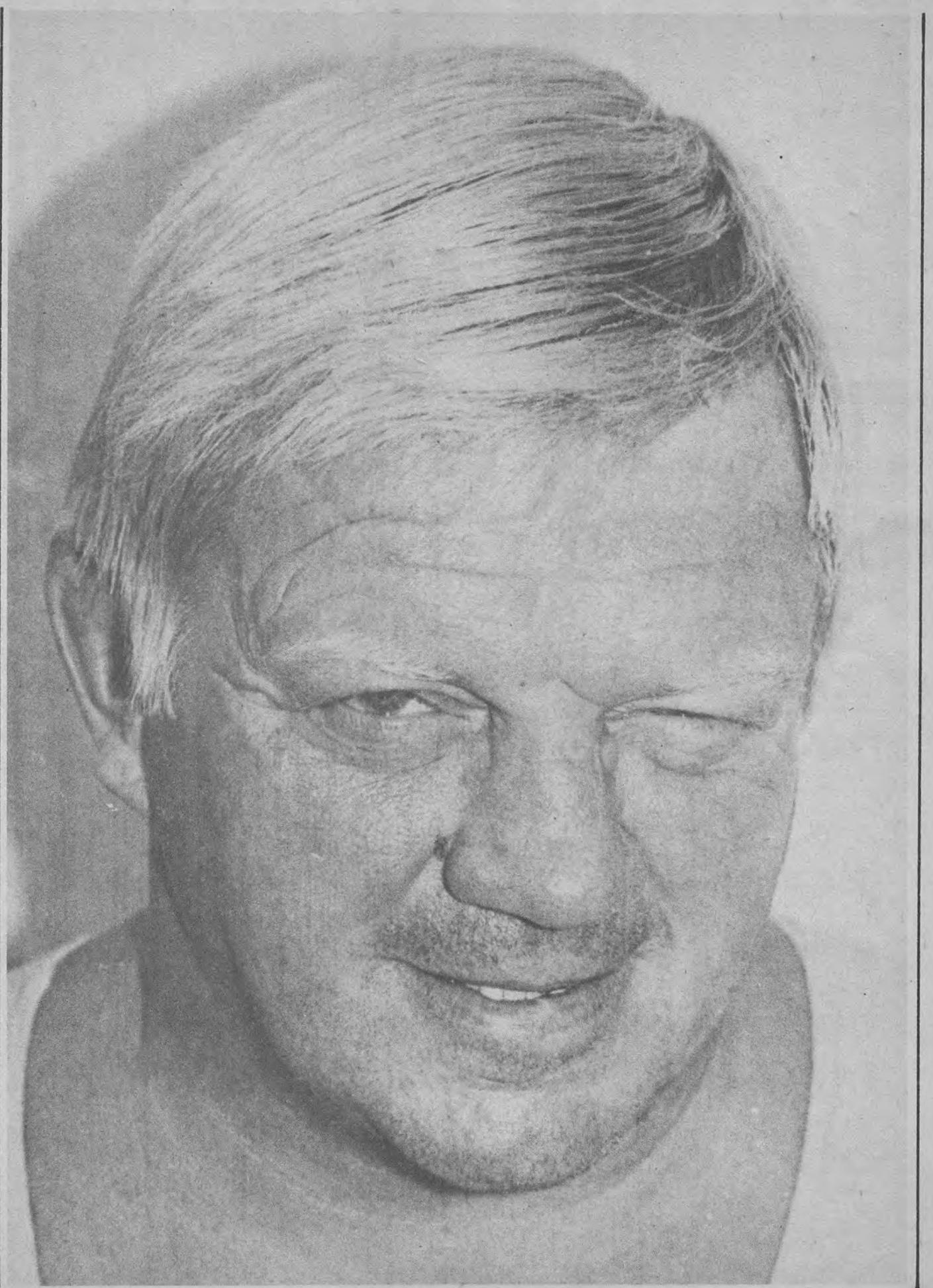
A: Yes sir. Any man who steps into battle against me better know he's capable of leaving that ring as a vegetable. I don't ask for mercy and I don't give any.

Q: Where did you get the nickname "Bruiser?"

A: They gave it to me when I was playing football for the Green Bay Packers. My full name, Dick Afflis, then became Dick the Bruiser because I used to bruise any football player who interfered with me. By the way, that's not my only nickname.

Q: What's the other one?

A: "The most dangerous man in wrestling." That's what the promoters and fans called me—and they still do. I'm still the most dangerous





If they put me against a fan favorite or a rulebreaker I'd still be wrestling the same way. I don't believe in any dumb rulebook. I make my own rules!

”

man in wrestling.

**Q:** Years ago when you wrestled guys the fans love you really deserved that title. But now that you're loved, don't you think you've mellowed your tactics somewhat?

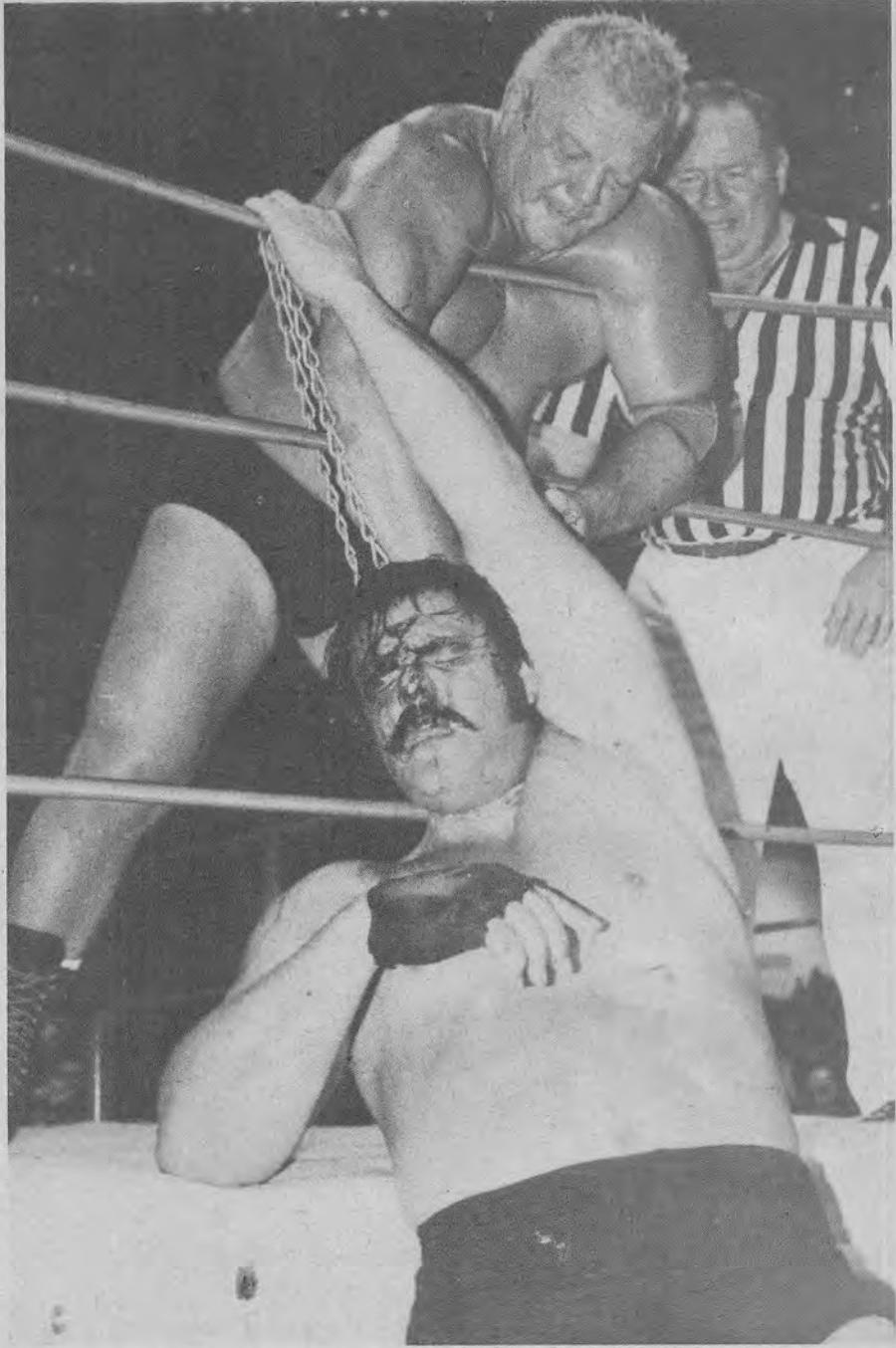
**A:** Hell no! If they put me against a fan favorite or a rulebreaker I'd still be wrestling the same way. I don't believe in any dumb rulebook. I make my own rules!

**Q:** A few years ago you teamed with Bruno Sammartino. Together you succeeded in breaking Ernie Ladd's leg. Are you proud of that?

**A:** Sure. He deserved it. That miserable coward. He was in Bobby Heenan's stable at the time. Anyone who hangs out with Heenan deserves to be crippled.

**Q:** How can you say that when Heenan actually does things as despicable as you used to do?

**A:** USED to do. I won't interfere in matches like he does. I used to, but not now—unless one of my friends is being ganged up on unfairly. I don't particularly go as far off the deep end as I used to.



*Even a wrestler as notorious as Blackjack Mulligan finds himself tortured in a chain match by Bruiser. Though Mulligan has left many foes crippled in chain matches, Bruiser can overcome any and all tricks with ruthlessly brutal tactics of his own invention.*

**Q:** Did you enjoy teaming with Sammartino?

**A:** Yes. Bruno is a great wrestler and a fine person.

**Q:** Didn't you hate him years ago?

**A:** Yes. But then, when we teamed, we had something in common, the same enemies. That brought us together.

**Q:** You and Crusher have been tag team partners for years. You've held many tag team titles and most recently you won the AWA championship from Nick Bockwinkle and Ray Stevens. Was this

your biggest accomplishment as far as teaming with Crusher goes?

**A:** I'd stay so. You know Bockwinkle and Stevens held that AWA title longer than any other team. They were destroying the best teams in the sport. Then they came across the greatest, me and Crusher. And that was a team they couldn't beat.

**Q:** Since that incident the team of Bockwinkle and Stevens has split up and both men have gone their separate ways. Do you and Crusher feel responsible for breaking up this team?



Above: Bruiser and Bruno Sammartino proudly raise the tag team title belts they won in 1973. Below: Bruiser is never too busy to take out time to alert the public to the plight of handicapped children. He has been a valued celebrity in many charity benefits.

A: By all means. They said in your magazine a while ago they split because they were so brutal that promoters refused to hire them as a team. BULL! No team can equal me and Crusher in brutality and we're still being booked by promoters!

Q: We, like most people, were surprised to see you appear in a March of Dimes telethon. Why did you do that?

A: I have a soft spot for kids—especially handicapped ones. I can't see kids being confined to a wheelchair. I want to help so maybe someday they'll find a cure for these crippling diseases and then no kids will have to be subjected to life in a wheelchair.

Q: Let's talk about your feuds. What wrestler do you hate the most?

A: That's hard to say. I guess I'd have to say Baron Von Raschke.

Q: Why do you single him out?

A: He's caused many of my friends—and myself—injury with that German clawhold. Damn it! I'd love to bust his hands so he can't



claw again.

Q: Why haven't you been able to accomplish this?

A: Because he runs from me during an entire match. I can't grab hold of him long enough to do it. But I will.

Q: Who else do you hate?

A: The Blackjacks—Mulligan and Lanza. They also use that claw. I want to bust their hands too.

Q: Do you feel the claw should be out-



I was damn mad when the wrestling organizations banned the piledriver. I love that hold. It showed your opponents you were boss! I'd never ask the barring of any tactic or hold.

”

lawed.

A: No. I don't feel anything should be outlawed. I was damn mad when the wrestling organizations banned the piledriver. I love that hold. It showed your opponents you were the boss. I'd never ask for the barring of any tactic or hold.

Q: Will you ever again become the wild, maniacal Dick the Bruiser fans in the early '60's hated so much?

A: You never know what tomorrow will bring. Maybe. But rest assured that if I do, you won't find me joinin' Bobby Heenan and his henchman. I plan to run that slob The Blackjacks and Von Raschke out of wrestling even if I have to die doin' it!

Q: Thank you Bruiser. We realize you're due at the airport to head back to Illinois, so we won't keep you any longer.

A: Me and Crusher are rasslin' at the Amphitheatre tonight!

Q: We hope you'll come back to New York and see us again! □

# IS LORD AL HAYS THE SPY IN JIM DILLON'S STABLE?

ONE OF THE hardest things to quiet is a vicious rumor. Once a piece of gossip is heard—not matter whether it is true or not—the information quickly passes from person to person, becoming larger and more unreal as it grows.

The wrestling world is not immune to vicious gossip. An idle speculation about a wrestler mentioned in passing can quickly become hard information passed from athlete to athlete and fan

to fan. And once a rumor is started, it is very hard to stop.

But sometimes a spreading rumor is based in fact, and not merely in idle speculation. Sometimes a man's action prompts other people to talk.

Lately, the object of such gossip has been Lord Al Hays, who shocked wrestling a while ago when he joined the group of wrestlers under the guidance of Jim Dillon. Hays' move to Dillon's stable was totally unexpected;

most people thought his style of wrestling did not agree with the total brutality Jim Dillon likes to promote.

The amazement about Hays' move quickly died. Most people believed some deal had been worked out between Hays and Dillon to bring them to some kind of accord. But then events happened which made several people begin to wonder exactly what it was Lord Al Hays was up to. And that's when the rumors began.

When Hays dropped Red Bastien on the top of the turnbuckle in a match, the NWA moved immediately to suspend him for 30 days. In and of itself, this action would not seem unreasonable. But there was more to it.

Before the suspension, Hays had





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**Is there a deliberate attempt to sabotage Jim Dillon's career as a manager? Are the promoters and commissions using Lord Al Hays to do their dirty work for them?**

---

been scheduled to wrestle in a tag team match after the Bastien bout with another member of Dillon's stable, the Mongolian Stomper, as his partner. The team was supposed to wrestle the duo of Red Bastien and Rocky Johnson. But, because of the suspension, Dillon was forced to substitute Killer Brooks for Lord Al Hays.

It is very rare when the NWA finds it

*Upon hearing the suspension rule set down on Lord Al Hays, Jim Dillon and The Mongolian Stomper react accordingly as the announcement rings throughout the arena. It has been speculated Hays is a spy for the NWA, and he is trying to break up Dillon's stable.*

## LORD HAYES SUSPENDED 30 DAYS!



When Lord Alfred Hayes dropped Red Bastien on the top turnbuckle last week he was awarded the match. But NWA action that followed handed him a 30 day suspension. This is the second time in the past few months that a wrestler guided by James J. Dillon has attempted the "corner bounce", a dangerous, crippling move to subdue an opponent. The verdict to suspend Hayes is an effort by the NWA to eliminate the move from the game completely, immediately!

has to suspend a wrestler. The process of suspension usually takes a while; in the case of Lord Al Hays, the process took only a few minutes. This quick

action aroused the suspicion of a few people.

Then it was remembered Hays once  
(Continued on page 54)

# THE REAL B IGOR-



Igor just took one on the chin (above), but he's not finished yet. Brower has a wrench in his hand (right) and he's using it to carve a roadmap on Igor's forehead! In another battle, it's Igor with the advantage (below) as he whips Brower from ringpost to ringpost in an effort to cripple the man he hates so intensely.



# REASON BEHIND THE BROWER FEUD



**E**VERYONE KNOWS OF the many bitter battles between Bulldog Brower and Mighty Igor. Almost everyone has heard conflicting rumors as to why these two men despise each other. Previously, the most knowledgeable wrestling minds believed it was a series of minor conflicts which mushroomed into a major confrontation.

However, new evidence has surfaced which has proven all the previous speculation to be wrong, and all theories to be way off the mark. Yet, the proof is irrefutable; documents have substantiated the one story told by five reputable sources. The story must now be told.

On March 28, 1970, Bulldog Brower filled out forms intended to have Mighty Igor deported back to Poland. Copies of these forms show them to be of the most slanderous nature. Anyone who fit the description of the man Brower depicted would be a detriment to any society. The description had nothing to do with the man thousands of fans love, Mighty Igor.

Department of Immigration records show two agents confronted Igor with the accusations, without ever mentioning Brower. For hours, the confused and scared Polish refugee answered the humiliating questions. All his friends were similarly questioned. Every aspect of his life was investi-

gated with a fine tooth comb. Months of this living nightmare went by before Igor was in the clear.

There is no reason Igor ever had to know who gave false information to the authorities. Only a man with the twisted mind of Bulldog Brower would claim credit for so horrible a move.

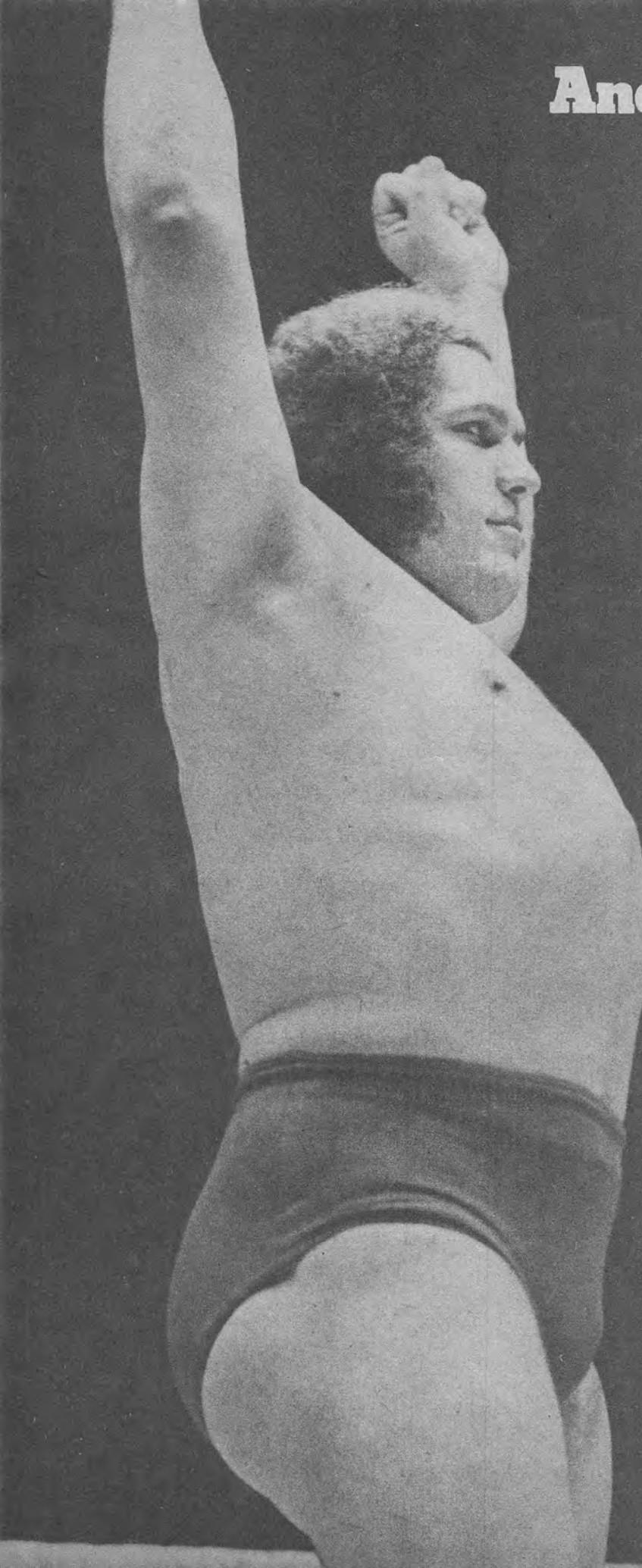
"What are you still doing in this country?" Brower crowed to Igor one day. "Haven't they sent you back to where you came from yet? I

(Continued on page 56)

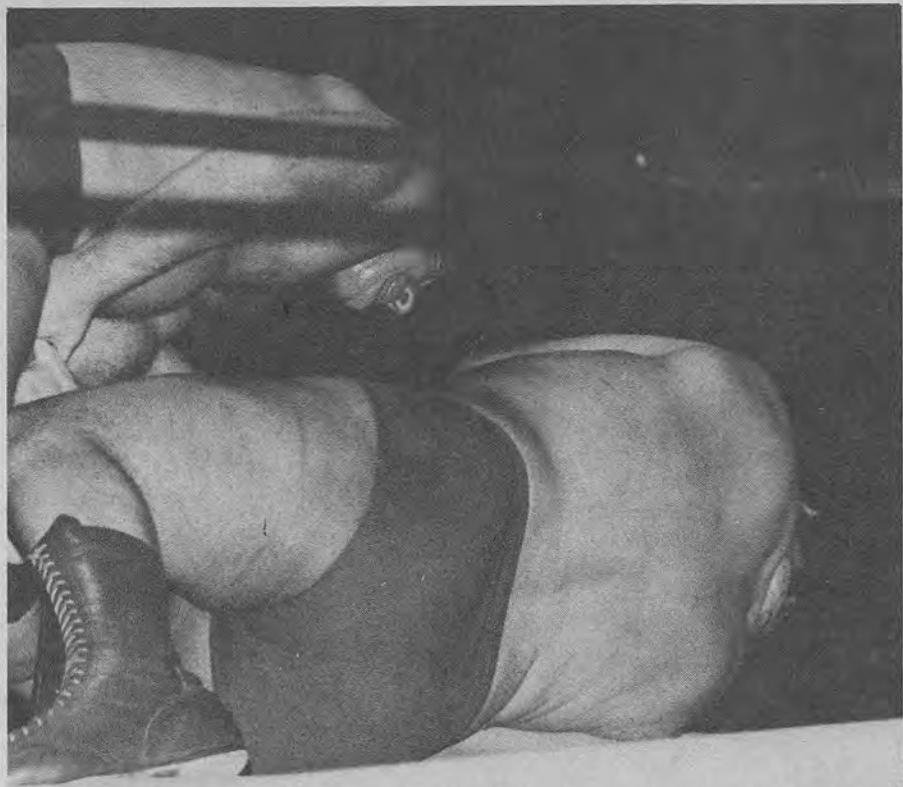
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**After months of research and countless interviews with all who know both Mighty Igor and Bulldog Brower the origin of this great feud can now be revealed. This is a story every wrestling fan must read!**

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**Andre's Shocking  
Change of  
Heart:  
"I WANT  
TO WIN  
A  
WORLD  
TITLE!"**



Terry Funk applies his "spinning toe hold" during his title match against Andre. Now that Andre has been in one title match he wants to grapple Bruno Sammartino (top oval), rematch Terry Funk (middle oval) and then take on AWA champ Nick Bockwinkle (bottom oval).

THE CHANGE WAS evident before Andre the Giant even opened his mouth. His demeanor was more serious, more purposeful. Gone were the twinkling eyes of a man on a spree. This athlete had become all business.

"I'm ready to become champion," he declared coolly, "the one reigning champion of all wrestling. The divisions hurt the sport. I can bring all three divisions together. I'm the only one with the reputation to do it. It's time I lived up to my responsibilities."

This announcement, though it had to happen eventually, came as a shock. For years, wrestling experts had predicted Andre might be the man to unify the three major wrestling alliances. But the complexities of the man's personality made it seem more like a dream than a prediction.

Andre refused to stay in one place long enough to qualify for a title shot. He either grew bored with the place or hesitated to commit himself to the

responsibilities of a title. Being champion was something requiring a home base. Andre, comfortable only in transit, didn't want any one place to be home.

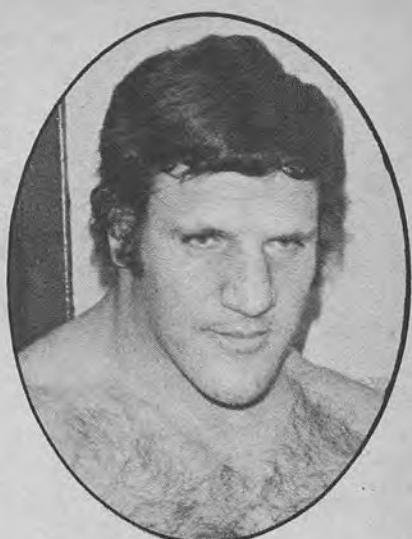
The reason for this has been Andre's sense of isolation from the rest of humanity. Towering over everyone, he felt afraid to relate to others. Traveling was the best way to keep his emotional distance from people.

Today, that is no longer a problem for this renowned athlete. He is sure of his skills and the fans' affection. He no longer feels compelled to prove himself to the world all the time. His own ambitions can now be satisfied.

"For years," Andre relates, "I've taken on the best grapplers in the world. I did it to prove I'm an athlete, not a curiosity. Well, my record proved my point.

"In proving myself, I was fortunate enough to build a world-wide following. My fans are the most loyal and

(Continued on page 58)



BRUNO SAMMARTINO



TERRY FUNK



NICK BOCKWINKLE

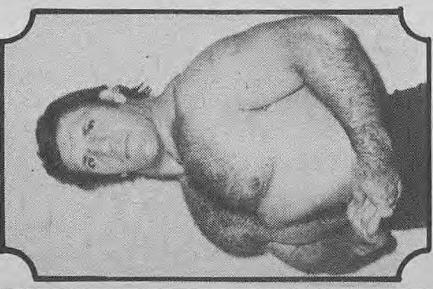
**Andre's incredible announcement threatens to change the face of wrestling. But can he accomplish what everyone believes to be impossible?**

# INSIDE WRESTLING'S

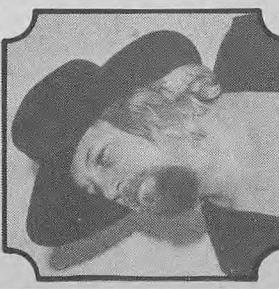
# OFFICIAL RANKINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

## World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: BRUNO SAMMARTINO



1—STAN HANSEN

## American Wrestling Association



CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

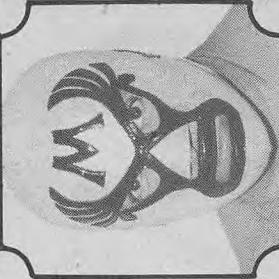


1—VERNE GAGNE

## Most Popular Wrestlers

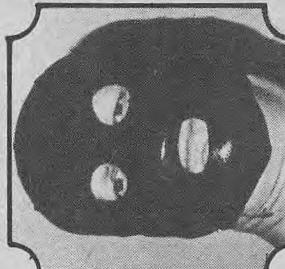
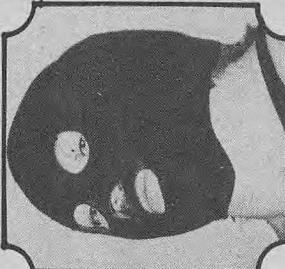


1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO



2—MIL MASCARAS

## Tag Teams

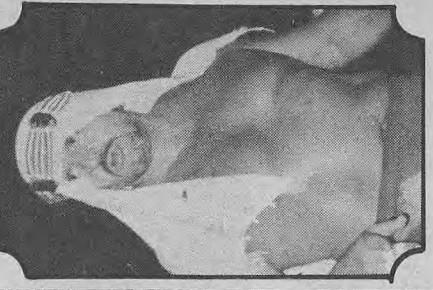


1—THE MASKED EXECUTIONERS



2—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

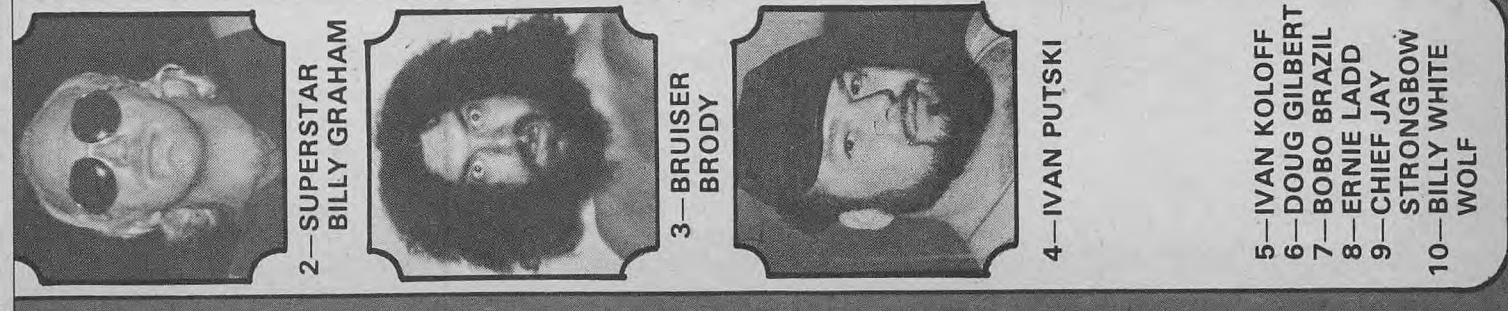
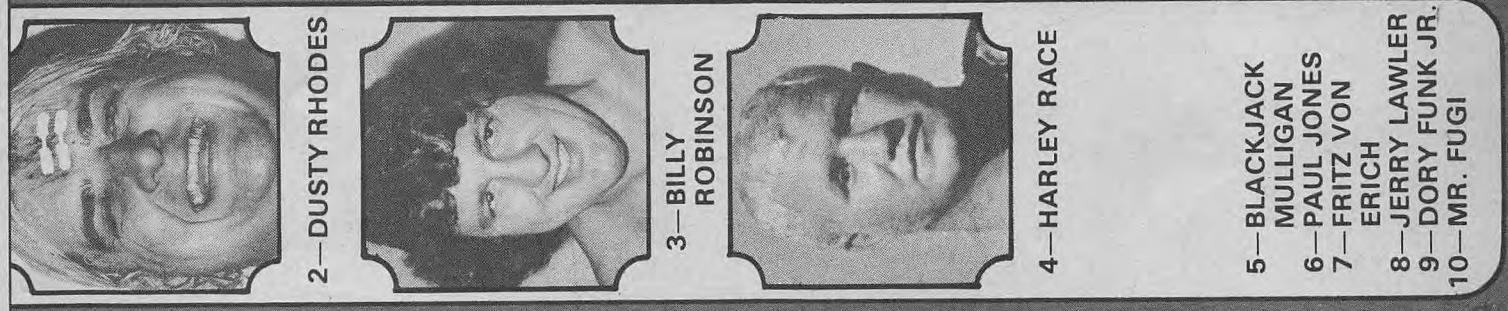
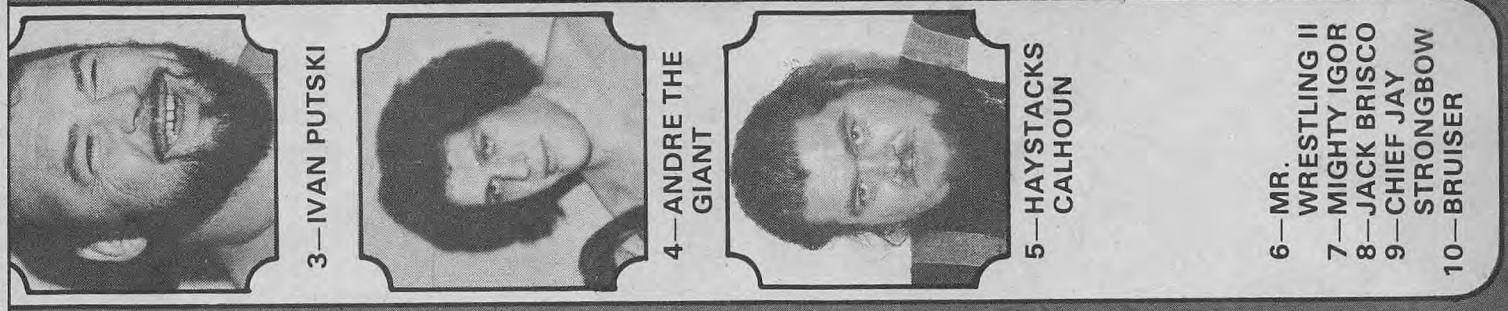
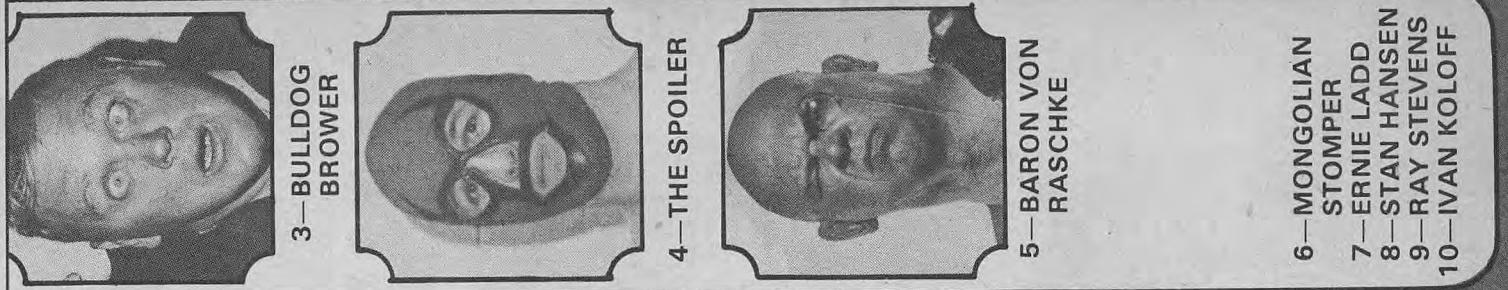
## Most Hated Wrestlers

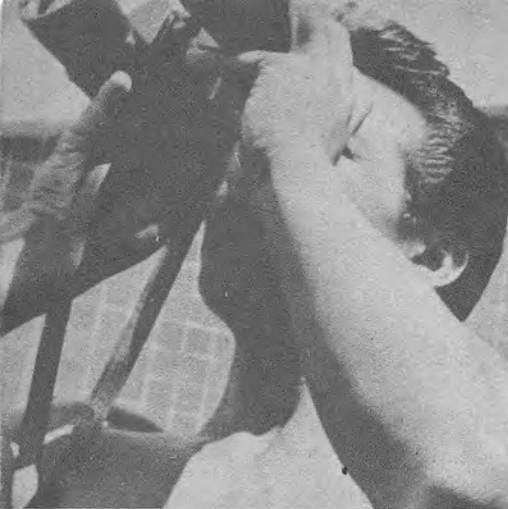


1—THE SHEIK



2—STAN HANSEN





*Only a pair of binoculars stands between you and the opportunity to see Mil's face—something many fans saw, but probably did not realize!*



*A photographer took this shot of Mil preparing to leave his hotel room before wrestling his first match without a mask on.*

# THE WEEK MIL MASCARAS WRESTLED WITHOUT HIS MASK

**T**O MIL MASCARAS, it seemed like the ultimate challenge. For one week, he would place his popularity, his identity, and very possibly his entire future on the line. He would wrestle for one week, in various parts of the country, without his mask!

It took a great deal of courage for Mil to decide to do something as potentially damaging as wrestling without his mask. His major fear was he might be recognized without the mask as Mil Mascaras, thus ending his career as a cowled grappler. Part of the mystery he had surrounding him would be gone forever.

But he felt he had to go through with this trial. He had to prove to himself that the fans approved of his style of wrestling, and did not just flock to arenas across the country to see "Mil Mascaras." Mil hoped for the former; he feared the latter might be true.

Mil planned this venture very carefully. He selected seven cities across the country in which he would wrestle. He chose the name "Ricardo Duran" as his alias, borrowing the name of a friend of his in Los Angeles. He told only his closest associates exactly what he was planning, and swore each one to secrecy. Then Mascaras called INSIDE WRESTLING, and informed the magazine of his plans. In return for revealing what he was going to do, the magazine promised not to photograph Mil without his mask.

A few days before the trek was slated to begin, Mascaras had everything ready. Mil had arranged for matches in seven major cities, each in different parts of the country. Everything was timed exactly. Mil knew who each of his opponents would be, and what kind of technique he would need to use to defeat them. But there was no way he could possibly gauge fan reaction to

# Here is the exclusive story of the seven days Mil Mascaras appeared without his mask before thousands of fans. Were you lucky enough to see Mil's face—and not know it?

his real identity.

For his first battle unmasked, Mil chose to wrestle a notorious rule-breaker in Florida. Although it was an opponent Mil had never battled before, he knew just where the man's weaknesses lay. It was not necessary for Mil to deviate from his usual style.

When Mil's opponent entered the arena, the spectators gave him their customary boos. But when "Ricardo Duran" entered the arena, there was silence. None of the spectators knew who this handsome Mexican grappler was. Indeed, they knew nothing about him at all.

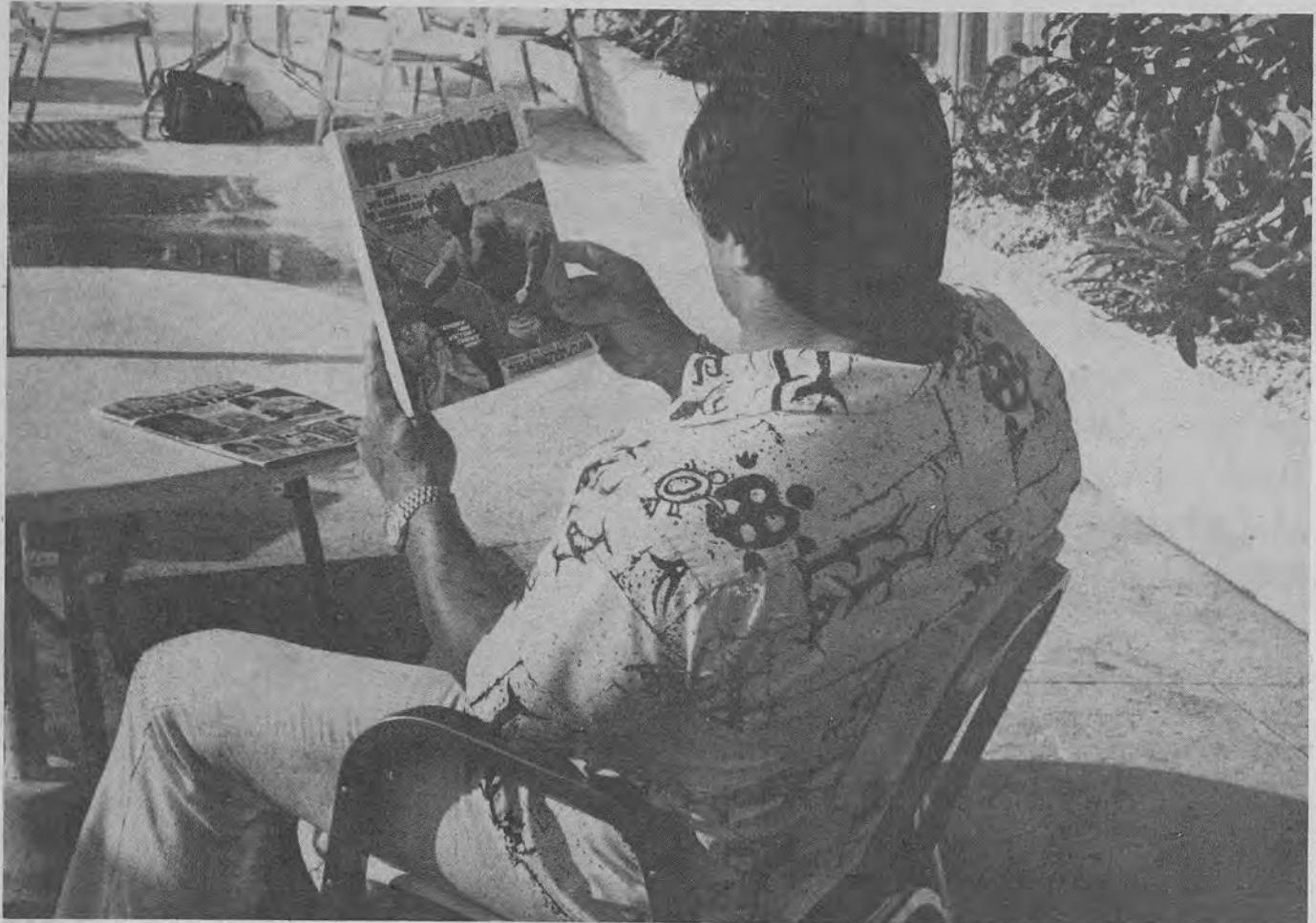
It took very little time for the crowd to start cheering for Ricardo Duran. Within minutes, Mil's opponent had been forced to submit. The fans went wild, screaming their new enthusiasm for this fresh face on the wrestling scene. "Ricardo Duran" walked triumphantly back to the dressing room with the thunderous applause of the audience still ringing loudly in his ears.

After that first match, Mil told INSIDE WRESTLING, "To be totally honest with you, I was really scared tonight. I had no idea how the fans would react to a completely unknown wrestler named 'Ricardo Duran.' I was quite pleasantly surprised. But this was only one city. There are six more left to try out."

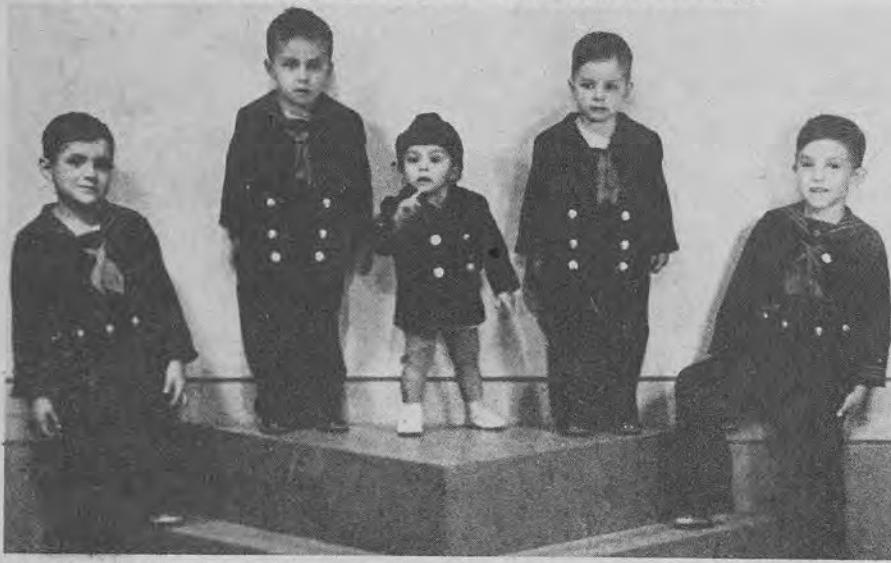
So Mil went onward in his trek. He next flew to a city in Texas to wrestle a man whose tactics seemed to change like the weather. There was no way Mil could know in advance whether his opponent would stick to legal maneuvers. He quickly found out.

Like the night before, there was no





One of the few times Mil has ever allowed anyone to photograph him without the mask was when Assistant Editor Bill Apter caught him vacationing—and reading a copy of *INSIDE WRESTLING* in Florida (above). Mil's brother Dos Caras is on the cover. Mil is the center of his family (below) before a mask ever entered his mind!



reaction from the spectators when "Ricardo Duran" entered the arena. And like the night before, it took very little time for the crowd to start cheering for this "unknown" grappler.

His opponent that night had opted for using less-than-legal tactics on this mysterious new wrestler. But "Ricardo Duran" was ready for anything, and he

had chalked up another victory before five minutes had passed. Again, the crowd went wild with enthusiasm for this new discovery.

The next day, Mil went to the northeast to see if "Ricardo Duran" would be as popular as he had been in Florida and Texas. This third day clearly established what was to be the pattern

for the rest of his seven day trial. The "unknown" wrestler quickly captured the hearts and imagination of the fans. He would go into an arena as an unknown, and would emerge from that battle as a beloved grappler.

After the appearance in the northeast came matches in a large city in the midwest, a showdown in the mid-atlantic region, a battle in a central plains city, and finally in a city in California.

Of all his appearances as "Ricardo Duran," Mil was most apprehensive about his appearance in the Golden State. Fans in California were most familiar with his style, and might possibly be able to recognize this new grappler as Mil Mascaras.

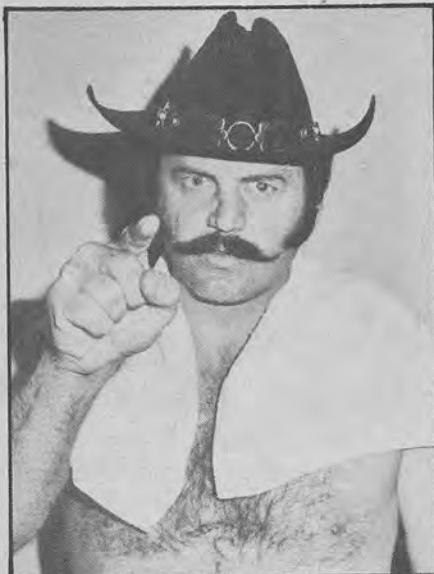
But Mil was determined to go ahead with his plans. When he finished wrestling that night, the fans went wild with enthusiasm for the new wrestler again, just as fans had in the other six cities. As Mil was leaving the arena, he overheard a comment one spectator made to another: "You know," the fan said to his friend, "that Ricardo Duran is pretty good. I'd like to see him wrestle against Mil Mascaras. Now that would be quite a battle!"

Indeed, that would be quite a battle. □

# INSIDE WRESTLING

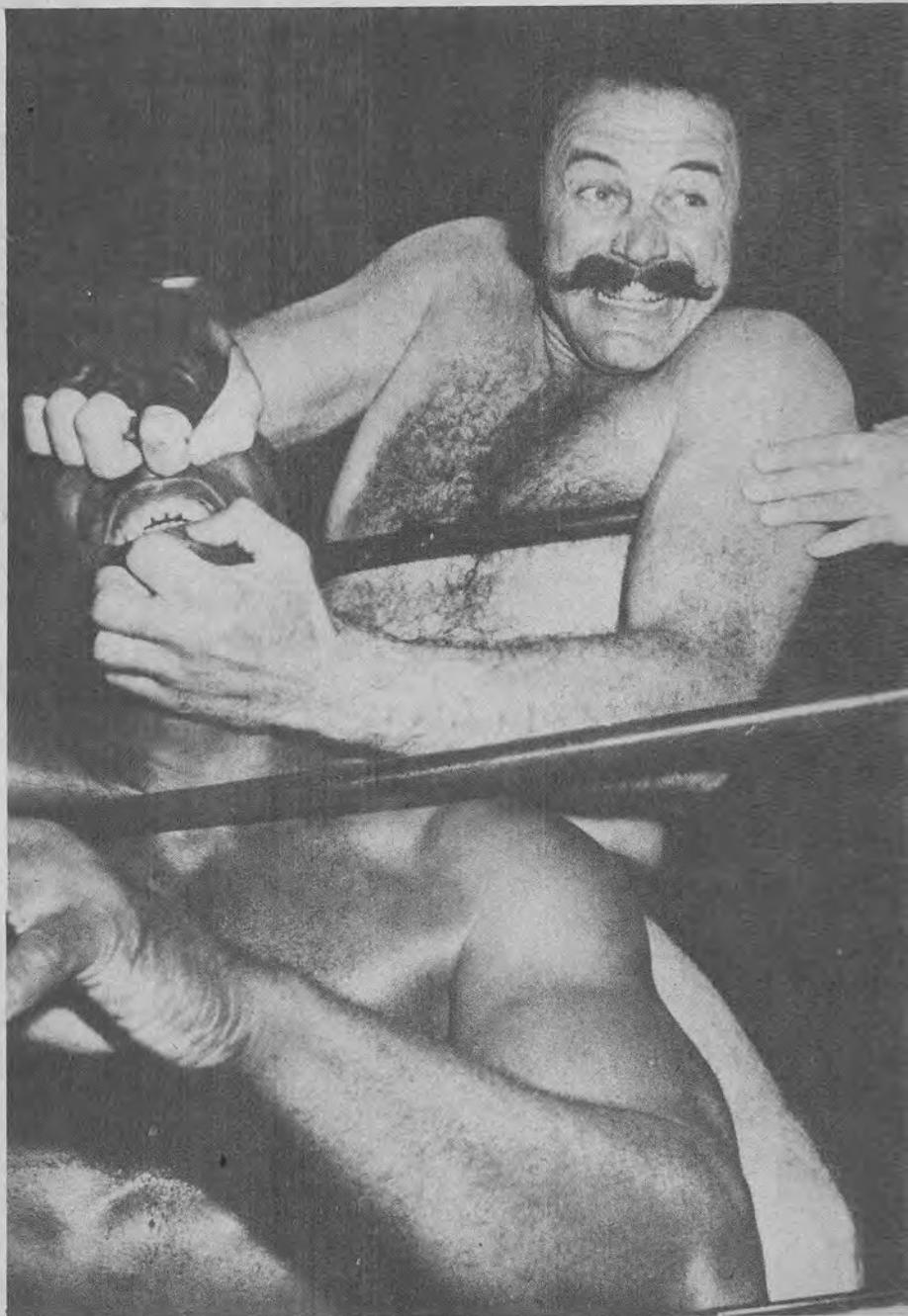
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### CAPSULE PROFILE



ONE OF THE most notorious men in all of wrestling . . . Often teams with Blackjack Mulligan to form the meanest team in the sport . . . Was once a strictly scientific wrestler ("I was called "Cowboy" Jack Lanza then. Things have changed.") . . . His clawhold is infamous throughout the sport, having caused serious injury to many fine men who encountered it . . . Managed in all areas, except the east, by Bobby Heenan. In the east is managed by Captain Lou Albano ("It's a different kind of wrestling in the east, so I need a different kind of manager!") . . . Always wears a glove on his right hand when in the ring ("I sprained my hand, I need to have the glove."), but some wrestlers think he uses it as a weapon . . . Sometimes refers

### BLACKJACK LANZA



Before a match, Blackjack Mulligan is known for his threatening posturing (above left). During the battle, he backs up his pose with reprehensible tactics, as Bobo Brazil discovers (above).

to himself as "Black Claw Lanza," just to remind people about his clawhold . . . Stands 6-5, weighs 260 pounds, and originally comes from New Mexico . . . With Blackjack Mulligan won almost every tag team title, including the WWWF,

AWA, WWA, and several NWA regional titles . . . Promoters have forced a temporary split between Lanza and Mulligan ("We'll be back together soon enough.") . . . In spite of his tactics, Lanza is a very exciting wrestler to watch. □

# TOP WRESTLE YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: **ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRES-**

**TLING**, Box 58, Rockville **JERRY LAWLER**  
Centre, N.Y. 11571

**The "Question of the Month" is:**

**"How Long Will Terry Funk keep his NWA title?"**

Submitted by:  
**Thomas J. Pond;**  
**Galveston, Texas**



**JACK BRISCO**

"The next time I wrestle that little man from Amarillo will be the last time he wears the belt into the arena. He has brought no honor to the championship. I will be very proud to take back my championship!"

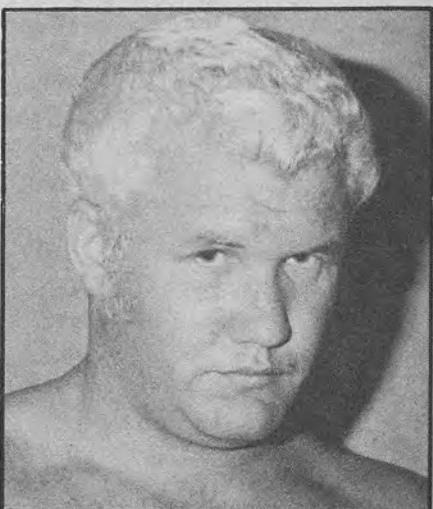
**STAN HANSEN**

"Since I don't wrestle in the NWA that often, in all probabilities, Terry Funk will be champion there for quite a while—maybe three or four years. However, if I was wrestling in the NWA, I'd be champion."



**HARLEY RACE**

"Every time I've wrestled Terry Funk I've won, but he's always been able to keep the title. One of these times there won't be any technicalities for Funk to use, and I'll become NWA champion again!"

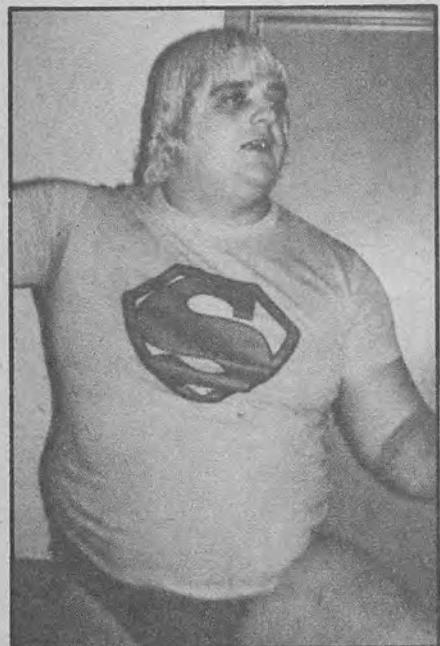


# RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



## DORY FUNK JR.

"My brother will be wearing the NWA belt for a long, long time. He is an excellent champion. His talents will help him defeat any challengers to his title. After all, the belt really belongs to the Funk family."

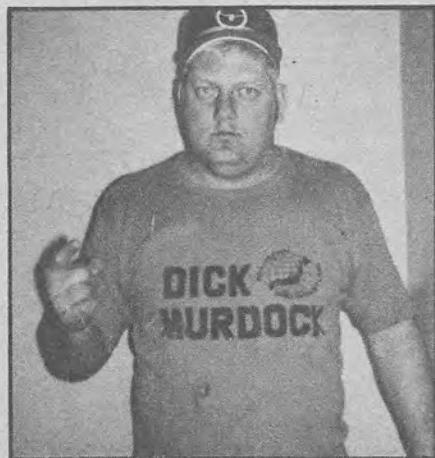


## DUSTY RHODES

"He won't be wearing that belt much longer, I can tell you that, daddy. How long can any man stand up to 'The American Dream' and not crumble completely? By the end of this year, that belt will be mine!"

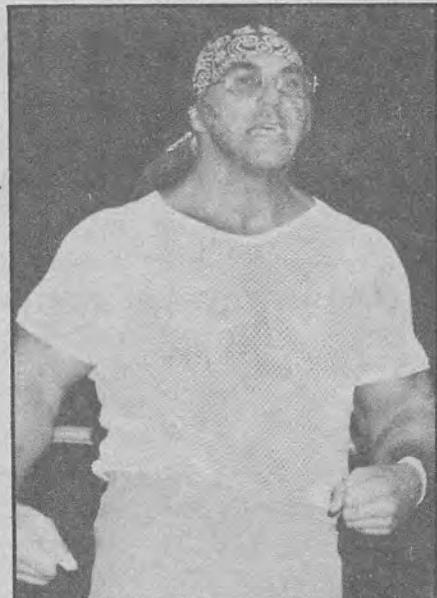
## DICK MURDOCH

"Personally, I think this question is a little ridiculous. Terry will have that belt for quite a while. He's young. He's talented. He knows how to hold onto the belt. He's a good champion—one who is worthy of holding the honors for many years."



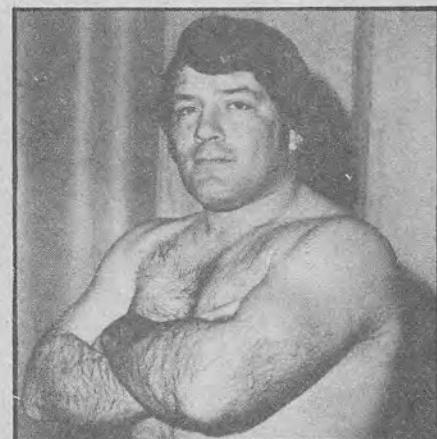
## ROCKY JOHNSON

"I really don't know how much longer Terry Funk will be NWA champion. There are many good wrestlers, myself included, who are waiting to take away the belt. But Terry is clever, and I don't think he'll give up the title too easily."



## BILLY GRAHAM

"I don't know too much about how Terry Funk has been doing since he's become champion. But from what I've heard, he'll probably keep his belt for about two years—that is, unless I happen somehow to be matched against him."



## PAUL JONES

"Terry Funk won't keep his title too much longer now. He's held it far too long as it is. Give me a chance against Funk, and you will see the end of his championship. It's that simple." □

# THE MIND BENDER

Okay fans. Here's our toughest puzzle yet. If you can solve it you're a real wrestling fan. Here's what you do. Alongside each picture is the scrambled last name of a wrestler or manager. Under the name is a box with stars. Unscramble each name and write it in the box under the scrambled name. After you've unscrambled all four names in each puzzle, take the letters in the stars and unscramble those to identify the name of the hold pictured alongside. Now you may know what the hold is just by looking at the photo. But unscrambling the letters of the wrestlers' names is where the fun comes in. When you've done all five "Mind Benders" turn to page 62 for the answers. Good luck!

**ALKOWSKI**



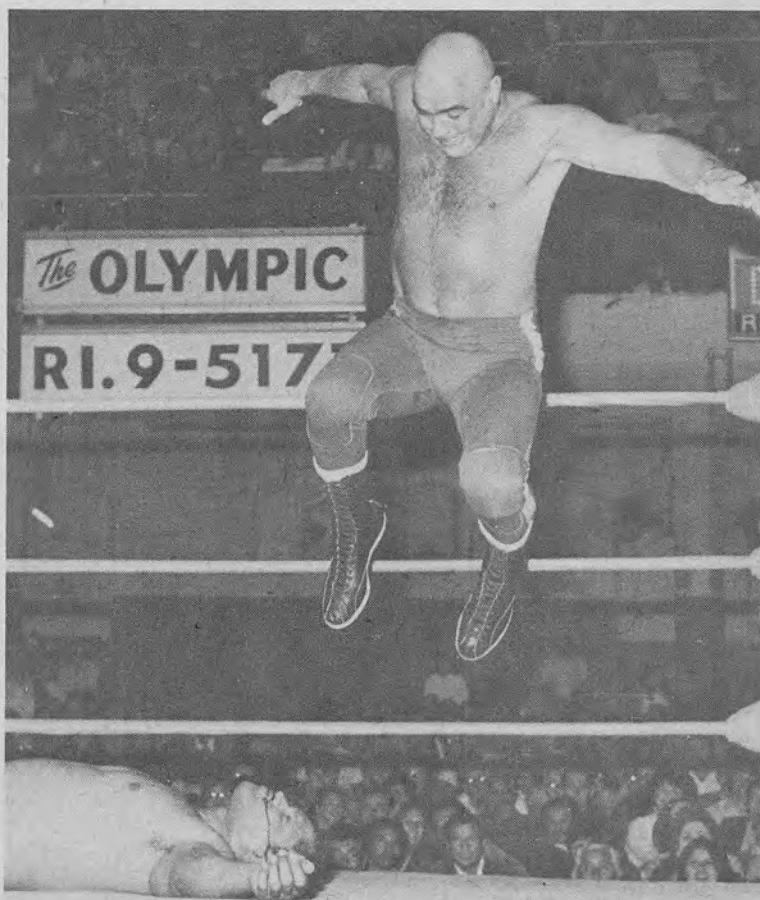
**RENTICERAP**



**YKSED**



**RURSIEB**



John Tolos really puts it to Victor Rivera in a Los Angeles match. Work out the puzzle on this page to find out the name of the maneuver Tolos is using.

**SSMRAACA**

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**WKAH**

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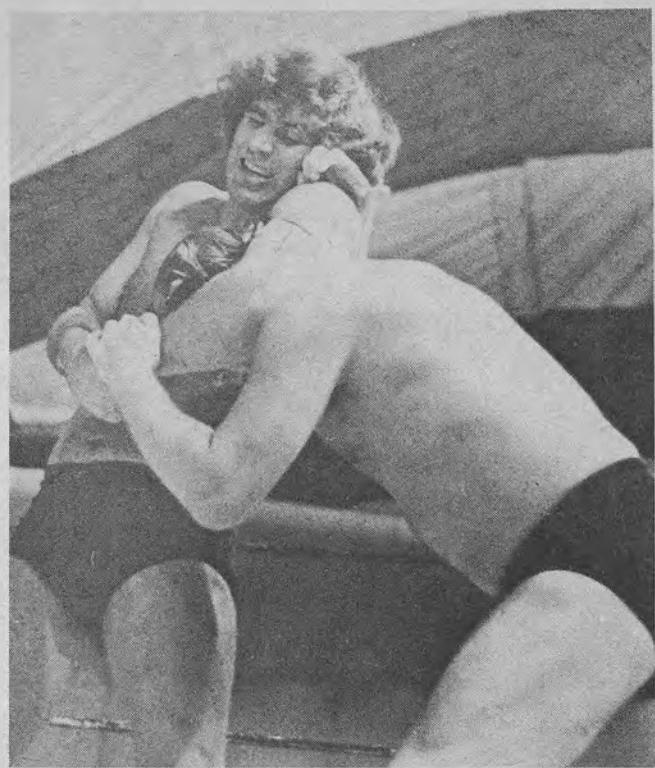
**LAREMOS**

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**CUNECID**

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A match between Jack Brisco and Dory Funk Jr. is usually a showcase for wrestling holds. This is a basic and familiar one. Unscramble the four names at left, then take the letters that fall into the stars and unscramble them giving the hold's name.

**GRWHTI**

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**NOLGOM**

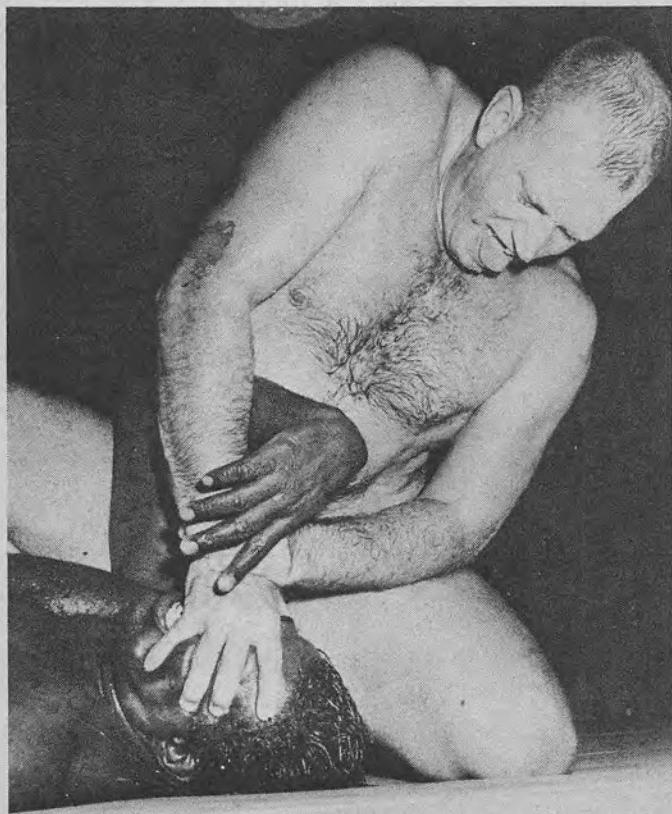
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**KASIHCUGA**

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**SORBIC**

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This one is easy to identify, especially since Fritz Von Erich is a master at it, as Bobo finds.

|  |  |  |  |
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Continued

## VETSNES

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## PRUPK

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## RALVEEN

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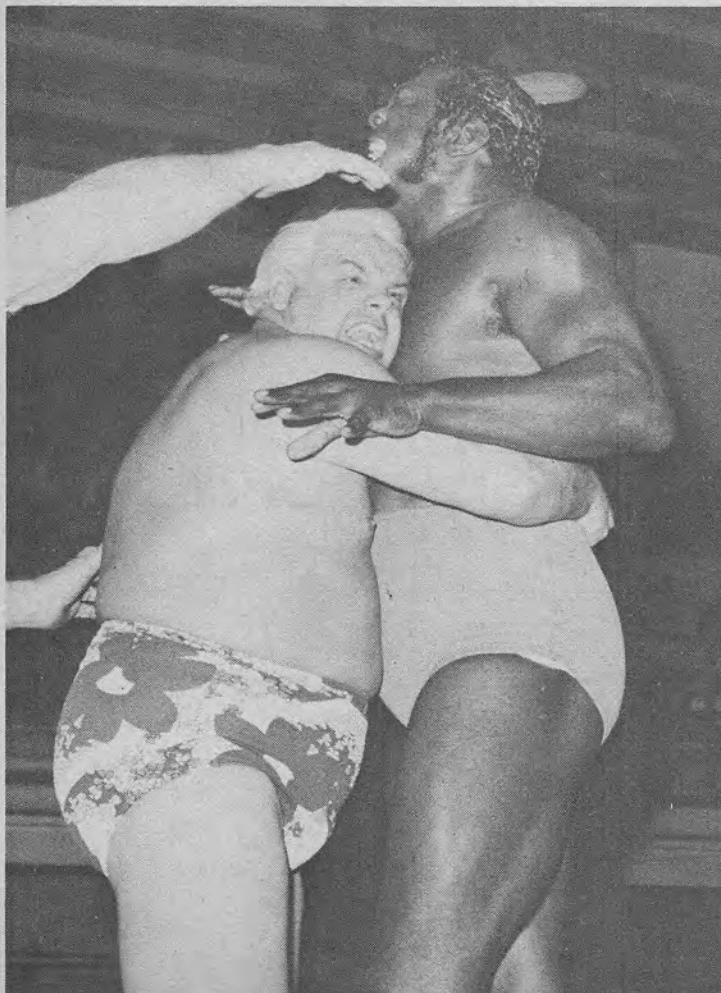
## SINIKIK

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What's Chief Jay Strongbow doing to Stan Stasiak?  
Easy. Unscramble the wrestlers' names on the left  
and the starred letters will give you the answer.

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Ripper Collins' ample stomach comes in handy when applying this particular hold against Bobo Brazil.

## HAMRAG

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## HEANS

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## SRECHUR

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## ZILRAB

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THE STORY

# ★ BEHIND THE HEADLINE ★



Vol. 1

No. 3

## Morales Wrests Mat Championship

Pedro Morales crushed Ivan Koloff into submission at 10:41 to win the World Wide Wrestling Federation championship last night before a record crowd of 21,812 at the Garden.

Morales pinned the title holder by jumping up on a ring post and then hurtling backwards—his 241 pounds landing on the chest of his 295-pound opponent. Morales' back pinned the Russian's shoulders to the mat. Koloff won the title last month in a match with Bruno Sammartino.

The Garden crowd surpassed the former wrestling attendance record of 21,104 and established a new gate receipt of \$86,885. Several thousand were turned away.

A FESTIVE MOOD could be found everywhere in Madison Square Garden the night Pedro Morales challenged Ivan Koloff for the WWWF championship. Twenty-one thousand fans turned out to see what



they hoped would be the end of Koloff's reign as the titleholder.

Only three weeks before, Ivan had won the WWWF belt from Bruno Sammartino. Pedro was hoping he could avenge that devastating upset and return honor to the championship.

It became a brutal contest between the two men in very little time. Koloff tried to repeat the success he had with his Atomic Drop—the maneuver which had felled Sammartino—with Morales. But Pedro had prepared for this and rolled out of the way just in time.

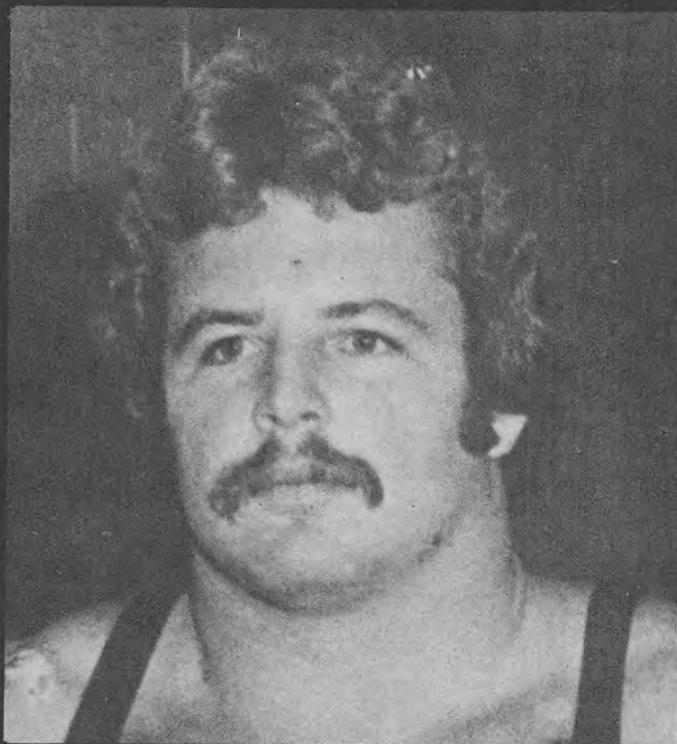
Pedro finally emerged victorious when he jumped up on the turnbuckle, then leapt backwards, heaving his entire weight on Ivan's chest. Koloff was knocked down to the canvas.

Three seconds later, Morales was the new WWWF champion. The match had lasted only 10 minutes, 41 seconds.

A thunderous roar was heard throughout the arena, as the thousands of spectators cheered for the new champion. Out of the darkness, Bruno Sammartino came running into the ring, carrying the WWWF belt. The former champion, with tears in his eyes, fitted the belt around the waist of the new titleholder. It was a very touching scene.

That night, Ivan Koloff earned the dubious achievement of having the shortest reign as champion in WWWF history.

For many people, Pedro's triumph was their own triumph. Honor was brought back to the WWWF with Morales as champion. □



# "HOW PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING HAS INFLUENCED MY LIFE"

BY MIKE GRAHAM

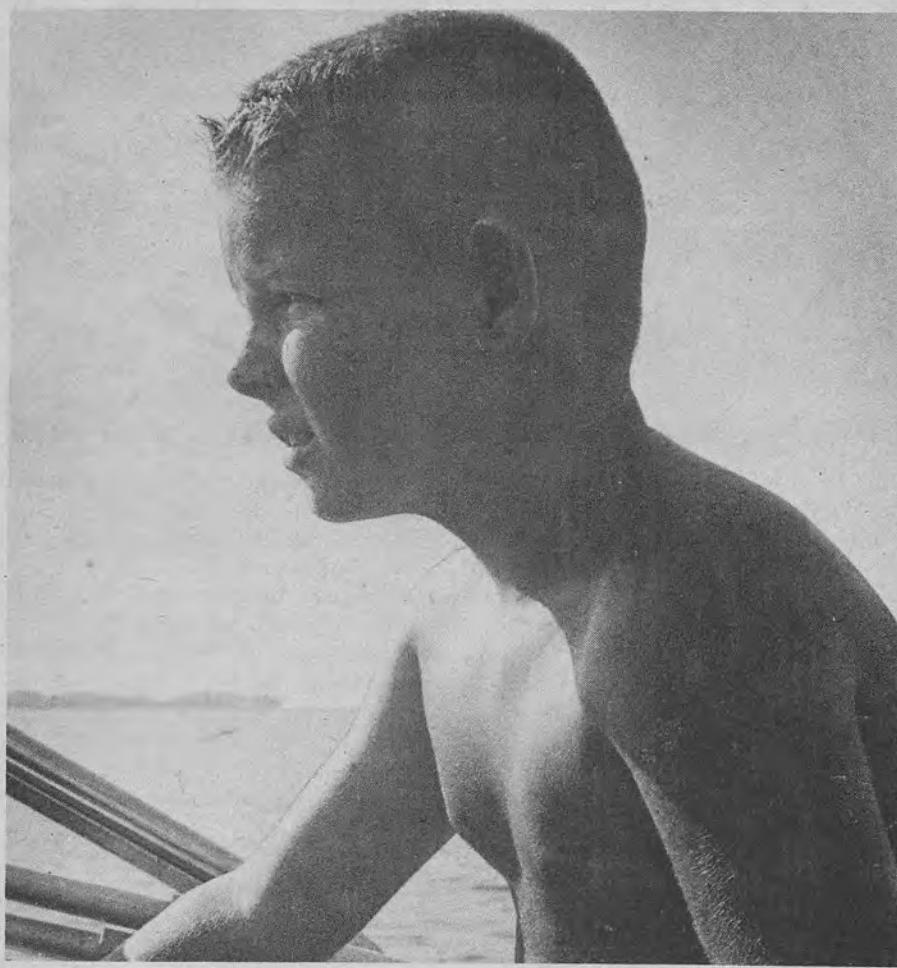
WRESTLING HAS ALWAYS been a major influence in my life. After all, growing up in the Graham family, how could I help but be influenced by the sport.

Nevertheless, I did not grow up wanting to be a professional wrestler. I always enjoyed many different sports, and I excelled in weightlifting. In fact, I won several titles in weightlifting, a pursuit I still follow to a small extent today.

I had spent much of my childhood in wrestling arenas, watching my father Eddie at his prime. I was always excited and fascinated by the sport, but for some reason, I never felt compelled to become involved in the action. However, a chance set of circumstances changed everything.

Usually, I would accompany my father to his matches and cheer for him from the audience. I was probably his most vocal supporter during his battles, and therein lay the problem.

Often at the matches I attended, there was another wrestler who would try and goad me. It was the late Bobby Shane. He would make nasty remarks about my father and call me "Baby Michael." At first I just tried to ignore his comments. But after a while, the verbal abuse got to me. He really made me mad.



A photographic study of young Mike Graham aboard his father Eddie's pleasure craft in early 1962. Mike loved boating almost as much as he loved to watch his father battle in the ring. A few years after this photo was taken, Mike would go on to become a great wrestler.

# I BROKE INTO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING"

Our office is constantly flooded with letters asking how to become a professional grappler. We decided the only ones who really know are the professional wrestlers themselves. Therefore, each month a different wrestler will describe the trials and tribulations endured on the path to wrestling stardom

I finally decided to do something about the remarks. I challenged Shane to a match against me. To this day I don't know why I did such a foolhardy thing. Nonetheless, what was done was done, and I found myself facing Bobby Shane.

When I look back on that match now, I grimace a little. It was a very rough battle for me. I had absolutely no professional wrestling experience, whereas Bobby Shane had a considerable amount. He knew exactly what he was doing by accepting my challenge. I wish I could have said the same.

But there was one surprise that evening—I won! Looking back on it now, I realize I won by a fluke of luck, but that didn't matter to me then. That night changed my life.

My whole family was in the audience that night, watching every move I made. In the dressing room afterwards, my father congratulated me, and told me I had great potential to be a professional wrestler. And so it was done; I decided to become a professional wrestler.

For the next few months, my father tried to teach me everything he knew about professional wrestling. I was a good student and I learned quickly. Soon I had perfected the favorite maneuver of the Graham family, the figure-four leg-



*Mike tosses Rock Hunter across the ring in a brutal contest. Mike can brawl with the best of them, but prefers wrestling scientific. Mike's favorite weapon is a hold he learned from his father—the figure-four leglock. It's won many of Mike's important bouts for him.*

lock. I became an expert at employing it.

Usually, breaking into the sport is a long, time-consuming process. It takes a long time for people to recognize you, and for promoters to want to use you. But this is one place I had an advantage. I started wrestling with my father for a while. As time went on, more and more fans began to know and like me, regardless of who my father was.

But I couldn't have had the needed first exposure without the help of my family.

I now wrestle on my own, without help from my family. Once in a while I still team up with my dad, but I'm enjoying myself wrestling as a solo. But I must say this: without my family, I would never have gone into the great sport of professional wrestling. □



*First  
Bruno*



*Then  
Putski*

**WHO WILL S  
CRIPPLE**

## Two great grapplers have fallen before Stan Hansen's "lariat." Is there a way to stop him before he cripples again?

THE RAGING HOWLS of Ivan Putski filled the arena. The Polish mat star's face was a mask of agony as his powerful body writhed on the canvas. This man would not be able to leave the arena on his own.

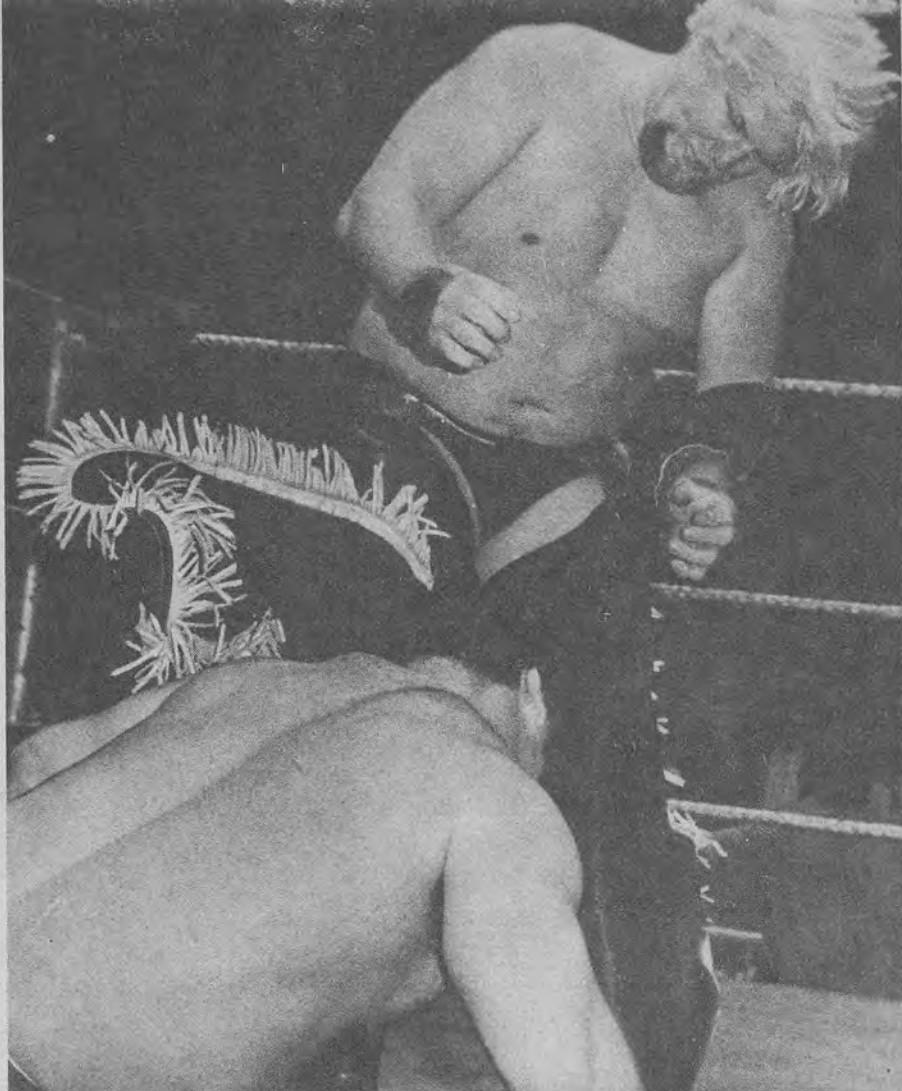
Men with a stretcher were about to enter when they were stopped by Billy White Wolf and Chief Jay Strongbow.

"The man's too proud," Strongbow said, "to be carried out on a stretcher. Let us get him. He deserves to be helped by friends."

The stretcher was put down while Putski's friends went to his aid. Gently, they lifted their injured friend. Their faces clouded when they realized how helplessly weak Ivan was, how totally dependant he was upon them. Slowly, ever so carefully, they lifted him out of the ring and toward the dressing room.

Fans were silent as they watched Putski being carried away. Those close enough to see Ivan's eyes were forced to turn away. His eyes revealed the terror at being so weak, the anguish at failing so completely. To stare at Putski was to feel more pity than a human being could stand.

When the doctor examined Ivan, he shook his head and called for the



*Even though Ivan Putski had the jump on Stan Hansen before the bout officially began, Hansen quickly reversed things and went to work. He pounded the lovable Polish star until poor Ivan was ready to become another victim of the dreaded Hansen terror hold, "The Lariat."*

ambulance. The physician could have treated the deep gashes on Ivan's scalp, but the wrestler's back would require X-rays and tests. The symptoms could have meant a broken back. It was the second time in recent weeks these symptoms had been present. The first time it

had been for Bruno Sammartino.

In fact, it was Bruno's injury, a cracked vertebrae, which had led Ivan to this match. He had hoped to avenge Bruno by defeating the champion's attacker, Stan Hansen. Instead, Ivan too was a victim of (Continued on page 64)

PHOTOS BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

# TAN HANSEN NEXT?

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies, other interests \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Wrestler \_\_\_\_\_

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As Your Pen Pal \_\_\_\_\_

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Picture.

(Sign Your Name)

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18-A Castle Court  
Boston, MA 02118  
Enjoys baseball. Sonny King his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for PP's.



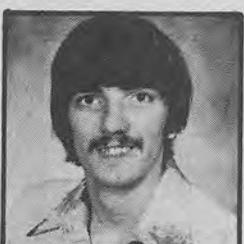
**ARTHUR O'DONNELL (23)**  
200 Marion St. #3  
E. Boston, MA 02128  
Likes travel. Dino Bravo his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**DIXIE BOWSER (12)**  
409 N. Grant Avenue  
Kittanning, PA 16201  
Enjoys dancing. Jay Strongbow her favorite.  
Likes good and bad guys.  
Boys for PP's.



**ROSEANN SMITH (12)**  
Rt. 14 Box 270-A  
Lexington, NC 27292  
Likes motorcycles.  
Paul Jones her favorite.  
Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



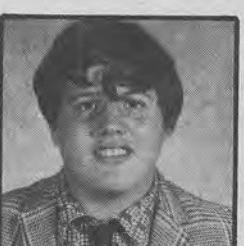
**DANIEL SWETT (18)**  
25 Marabout Street  
Chelsea, MA 02150  
Likes hockey. Pat Barrett his favorite.  
Likes good and bad guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**LEON DELP, JR. (12)**  
107 Wagner Lane  
Reading, PA 19601  
Likes bowling. Ivan Putski his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**RANDY SMITH (16)**  
Abbot Hill  
Wilton, NH 03086  
Likes music. Ivan Putski his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**GERALD VAN BUREN (16)**  
P. O. Box 155  
Clements, KS 66844  
Likes sports. The Oates Brothers his favorites.  
Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



**MARLENE PRENDERGAST (14)**  
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Chicago, IL 60629  
Collects stamps.  
Bruiser her favorite.  
Likes good and bad guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**TONY RHODES (12)**  
Rt. 1  
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Likes models.  
Jackie Fargo his favorite.  
Likes good guys. Girls



**BENNY MATTEO (10)**  
294 Central Avenue  
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Enjoys baseball.  
Bruno Sammartino his favorite.  
Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.



**SYLVIA ZUNIGA (16)**  
General Delivery  
Milford, IN 46542  
Likes music. Mil Mascaras her favorite.  
Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.

# N PALS



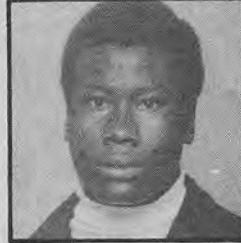
**THOMAS DOTY (12)**  
52 Canal Street  
Paterson, NJ 07503  
Likes books. Mil  
Mascaras his favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**WILBERT GONZALEZ (15)**  
681 Courtlandt Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10451  
Likes sports. Mil  
Mascaras his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**SUZETTE LETTERLOUGH (8)**  
146 Conover St. #2R  
Brooklyn, NY 11231  
Likes bike riding.  
Ivan Putski her  
favorite. Likes good  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**GLENN KNOLTON (18)**  
Rt. 1 Box 285  
Reynolds, GA 31076  
Likes basketball.  
Dick Slater his  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



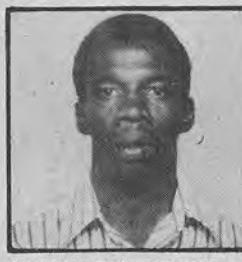
**KEVIN HALSTEAD (10)**  
24 Maplewood Road  
Hartsdale, NY 10530  
Enjoys ceramics.  
Sheik his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**WENDY YORK (15)**  
116-15 Ave. S.E.  
Calgary, CANADA  
Likes riding horses.  
Carlos Belfonte her  
favorite. Likes good  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**FRED ELLIS (18)**  
P. O. Box 342  
Casselberry, FL 32707  
Enjoys swimming. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Girls for PP's.



**SYLVAN CLARKE (22)**  
1421 Dean Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11213  
Likes sports. Bruno  
Sammartino his  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**JANET SIMPSON (14)**  
Rt. 1 Box 124-S  
Yelm, WA 98597  
Likes animals.  
Dutch Savage her  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**CHUCK GOLDRAYER (17)**  
1178 E. 86 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11236  
Enjoys sports. Ivan  
Putski his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**PETE BRYFCZYNSKI (14)**  
966 Willard Dr. #2  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
Collects beer cans.  
Dusty Rhodes his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Girls  
for pen pals.



**JO ANN BENICK (15)**  
213 Grant Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07305  
Likes sports. Bruno  
Sammartino her  
favorite. Likes good  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**TERRY PETRARCA (23)**  
48 W. Burrell Street  
Blairsville, PA 15717  
Enjoys music. Bruno  
Sammartino his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



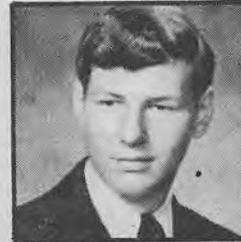
**MIKE LONDON (9)**  
Route 4 Box 338-A  
Shelby, NC 28150  
Likes sports. Tim  
Woods his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**CATHY GONSMAN (12)**  
Edgewood Street  
Claysburg, PA 16625  
Likes sports. Jay  
Strongbow her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Girls  
for pen pals.



**HENRY DUFRANE (14)**  
Dundee Road  
Fort Covington, NY 12937  
Enjoys fishing. Edouard  
Carpentier his favorite.  
Likes good and bad guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**BILL OLIVER (19)**  
422 West Oak  
Shenandoah, PA 17976  
Likes sports. Dom  
Denucci his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for PP's.



**DONNA NIEMI (16)**  
6343 Breezewood  
Orlando, FL 32808  
Likes sports.  
Dusty Rhodes her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**JOHN CHUTE (15)**  
Rt. 2 Box 732-C  
Tarpon Springs, FL 33589  
Likes basketball. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Boys for pen pals.



**CHRIS JARVIS (9)**  
Route 5  
Moultrie, GA 31768  
Enjoys racing. Mil  
Mascaras his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for PP's.

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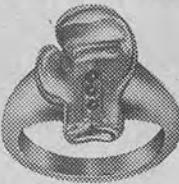


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Gold Finish  Silver Finish

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## ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



Even wrestlers as tough as the hated Professor Toru Tanaka haven't been able to unmask Mr. Wrestling II (above). He still stands proudly before wrestling fans (below), having turned back all the foes who promised to take off his mask!



did not expect what came next.

Mr. Wrestling II turned to me and said, "I would imagine you've probably heard the same stories I've heard, including who Stasiak thinks I am. Therefore, I'm going to show you who I really am." With that, Mr. Wrestling II took off his mask and revealed his identity to me.

I must admit I was shocked. I never realized before that was who he was. I would love to tell everyone, but I was sworn to secrecy. All I can say is Stan Stasiak is in for quite a surprise.

We talked for a little longer about other subjects, but nothing much was said of any great consequence. We parted company then. He went off to the gym to prepare for a wrestling match that night, and I to the local hotel to write this story.

In the sanctity of a hotel room, I tried phoning Stan Stasiak, to see if he was still making his threats on Mr. Wrestling II. After several tries, I finally got through to him. He told me he was ready to reveal the identity of the masked grappler. I asked who he thought Mr. Wrestling II really was. He refused to tell me.

Therefore, fans of Mr. Wrestling II, do not worry. I don't think Stasiak really knows Wrestling II's identity. However, I could be wrong. □

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## BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 10)

weigh don't stand a prayer against me. Nobody stands a prayer against the Superstar!"

A few fans wanted to know if Billy Graham should ever win the WWWF championship, would he turn into a clean wrestler? Graham's reply:

"Tell those people to get glasses. I am a clean wrestler now. They either need glasses or had better start watching my matches more carefully!"

While out in Los Angeles recently, took in some real thrillers. Also saw Chavo Guerrero nearly lose his mind in his dressing room as his father, Gory, was exactly that—gory—after being sneak-attacked by Crusher Verdu and Rodney Piper. Gory was dripping blood all over the room, and Chavo was running all around looking for Dr. Schwartz who was busy attending other wrestlers. There should have been more physicians in attendance.

Another one of the places I was in over the last month was the Carolinas. Visited Wahoo McDaniel in the hospital, and he was doing just fine. Wahoo was sent there by Ric Flair during a wild brawl that ended outside the ring and had fans scattering for their safety. After the two tumbled through the ropes and onto a press table—shattering it—Ric grabbed one of the table's broken legs and proceeded to pound and hammer McDaniel with it. Flair left him lying in a pool of blood, and it took dozens of stiches to close the wounds all over Wahoo's head.

"He should have killed me," said Wahoo. "Flair made a mistake by letting me live. I don't think I have to explain what I plan on doing to him when we next meet. I'll make him wish he had finished the job when he had the chance."

While in the Carolinas, I spent some time talking with Mil Mascaras, one of the most beloved and respected figures in the sport. I'd never be shocked if, one day, Mil's opponent applauded him as Mascaras stepped through the ropes. Much of Mil's spare time is now being used to read every entry in our "Win a Mil Mascaras Mask" contest. On my flight down to the Carolinas, I brought with me a suit-

case filled with entries, and they were just a small portion of the entries that are flooding this office.

"It's sure going to be tough selecting a winner," said Mil. "I only wish I had several thousand masks that I could give out. My fans deserve it."

Some wrestlers think they're really hot stuff. You should have seen Beautiful Bruce Swaysze (he calls himself Beautiful—I don't!). A few photographers were taking some shots of him in the hall outside the dressing rooms. All each photographer wanted was two or three shots of him.

"No, no, no," shouted Swaysze when each man tried to walk away. "You keep taking pictures. Just fire away at this beautiful, wonderful face."

Any time one of the photographers told Bruce, "I gotta get going," Swaysze just said, "You're not going anywhere. Just stay here and take pictures. You'll love them when they're developed!" Those poor photographers stayed there taking pictures until their film had run out.

Bugsy McGraw spotted me at a show a few weeks ago and said, "What's this I hear about you thinking I'm crazy and like a wild, rabid animal??"

Before I could answer him, he began pouring a cold beer all over his head! Not crazy, huh?

**CONFIDENTIAL TO A KEVIN SULLIVAN FAN:** He loved the Easter present you gave him!

Bruno told me—long before he was interviewed by the news media—that he'd love nothing more than to face Muhammad Ali. You know something—I think a Sammartino-Ali match will come off, and Ali had better pray he doesn't get hurt in that one!

Remember—if you have anything at all you'd like me to find out for you (if I can), just drop a line to:

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Well, it's off to the midwest for one week to see what dressing room goodies I can come up with next. If you see Mad Dog Vachon, send my regards. □

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# LORD AL HAYS

(Continued from Page 27)

said he did not like wrestling friends like Rocky Johnson. People began to wonder—did Lord Al Hays purposely have himself suspended? Did this action have something to do with Hays joining Dillon's stable in the first place?

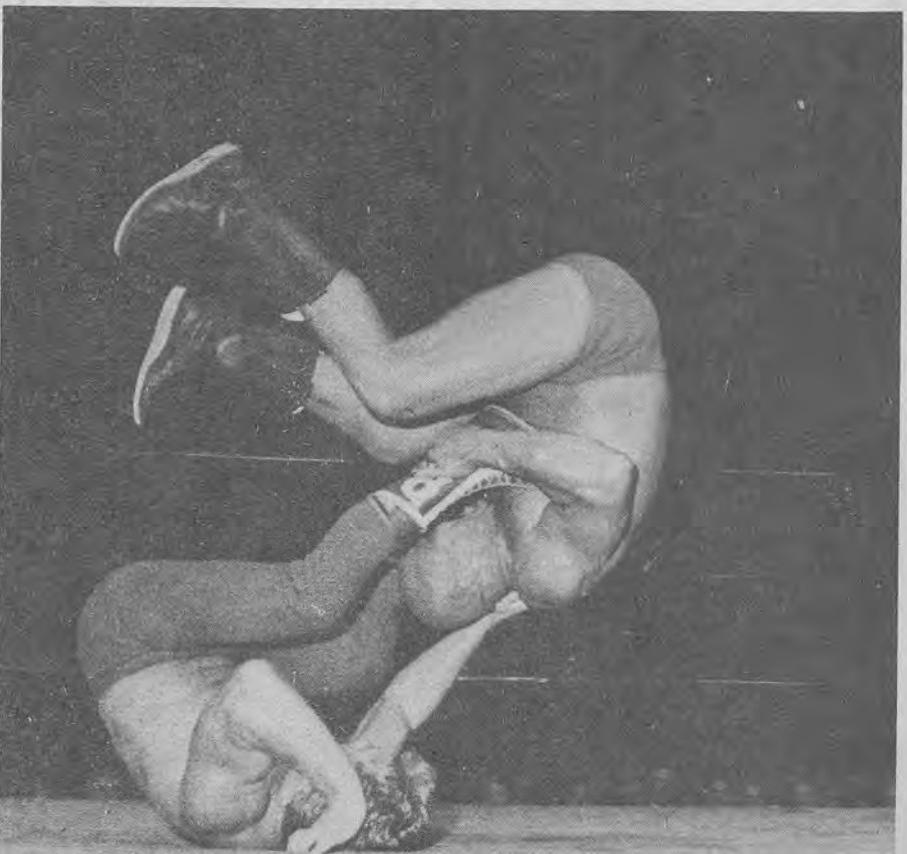
People began to wonder if it was possible Lord Al Hays was a spy in Jim Dillon's stable. And if he was a spy, who sent him? What was his purpose?

In a very short amount of time, the rumors started circulating about Hays. Some thought he had purposely joined Dillon's group to end the managerial career of a man who has taught many wrestlers how to be very vicious. Some thought Hays had entered Jim's stable to recruit men like Stomper and Brooks away from Dillon. And some people strongly believed the NWA itself had sent Lord Al Hays into Jim Dillon's stable for its own ends.

The rumors spread until they reached the ears of Hays himself. It was expected the wrestler would try to put an end to the rumors, denying any part of them, stating flatly there was not a shred of truth to them. It was expected when Hays heard the stories he would become very angry. His reaction surprised everyone.



*Rocky Johnson sends Killer Brooks, Hays' replacement for the evening, sailing through the air (above). Red Bastien monkey-flips Mongolian Stomper (below), who did not work too well with Brooks. After all, he did train for the bout with Hays.*



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*Stomper still can't get an advantage as Bastien goes up in the air and avoids what could have been a fatal bodyblock.*

Instead of becoming outraged, Lord Al Hays took the news very calmly. He would not come right out and deny the story. In fact, it seemed he almost confirmed it. He merely said, "That's an interesting story. I wonder where it started."

Since Hay's non-denial, the speculation has continued to grow. Now it seems there is very little anyone can do to stop the rumors. Even Jim Dillon has heard the stories, although most people tried to prevent him from hearing them. When told the speculation about Hays, Dillon said, "I don't believe a word of it. Do you hear me, not one word! Hays is one of the most loyal wrestlers I manage. He would not be purposely trying to destroy me."

"If anyone is trying to destroy me, it's the NWA, but not through Lord Alfred Hays. His suspension was totally political. Hays was trying to protect Bastien, and he accidentally slipped. The next thing we know, the top brass of the NWA was there suspending him. It was a frameup!"

So far, Lord Al Hays has not said anything more about the vicious stories being told about him. Many people believe it is time for him to either deny them completely or tell everyone if they are true. As time goes on, the story is told to more and more people. There will soon come a time when he will not be able to ignore the rumors. He will have to face them.

But for now, Hays stays silent. No one knows for sure if he is a spy in Jim Dillon's stable of wrestlers. The possibility exists. It is now up to Lord Al Hays to confirm or deny the story.

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(Continued from Page 29)

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A madman out of control is the best way to describe Brower as he blasts away at the bloody Igor with a chair (above). But Igor gets back into the ring and reverts to Brower's tactics (right), trying to bash Bulldog's head in with the metal chair.

can't believe they haven't finished with you yet. There used to be a time when the government worked quickly to ship back undesirables to where they came from." And Brower laughed loudly at his sadistic practical joke.

When Igor realized who was responsible for his torment, he just sat there and shook violently. He was too stunned to move, but his body demanded some action. All the nerve-wracking months seemed to be concentrated at this moment. Two witnesses present at the confrontation swear tears fell from Igor's eyes; the others don't remember. All agree it was the most heart-rending scene they had ever witnessed.

Brower actually grew frightened at Igor's reaction; Bulldog, the maniac, thought Igor had gone crazy. He quickly left the area. The others stayed, not quite sure what would happen. Igor stopped trembling eventually. He then sat as still as death for over an hour.

Igor's eyes were the first to come to life. They started to dart around the room wildly, searching for something they weren't sure could



be found. They sought a reason for a man like Brower. Then Igor started again to tremble violently. Small gurglings started to come out his throat; they grew in volume until screams pierced the air.

The yells were for the months of confusion, fear, and sorrow Igor suffered. The tension Igor endured was unrelenting. His every action was under surveillance and his mind desperately tried to imagine what he'd done wrong. He'd been in a prison of fear for months. Now he had met the warden. For Igor, the experience was a nightmare; to Brower, it was a practical joke. The screams turned to sobs. Igor wept piteously for all the agony

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he'd suffered. There was too much pain for him to contemplate revenge.

The pain passed and was replaced by a drive for vengeance. Igor longed for the feel of Brower's body squirming from torture. The kind grappler wanted nothing more than to leave Brower lying in a pool of blood. Once would not be enough—the slaughter would have to be repeated until the memory of those horrible months was avenged.

The first time the two men wrestled after the truth came out, Brower couldn't believe what was happening. Igor dominated him with a violence Brower had never before experienced. Before he could begin to respond, Brower found himself overwhelmed and battered to the canvas. Bulldog's blood stained the canvas as he tried unsuccessfully to rise, but Igor was all over him. The match was over. The first blood of this feud had been



Igor cries like a baby after the match was stopped because he was bleeding too profusely. He swears he'll kill Brower for what he did.

spilled.

It doesn't take much to embroil Bulldog Brower in a feud. The notorious grappler used every dirty trick at his command in the return match. Now, both men were ignoring victory on their drive for destruction. Permanent injury to a foe was the only real victory.

For the past few years, Igor and Brower have engaged in some of the most ferocious contests in sports' history. That both have survived so far is a miracle. That the feud still exists so powerfully is terrifying.

Sooner or later, one of the men will succeed. And then, the other man will be finished for life. □

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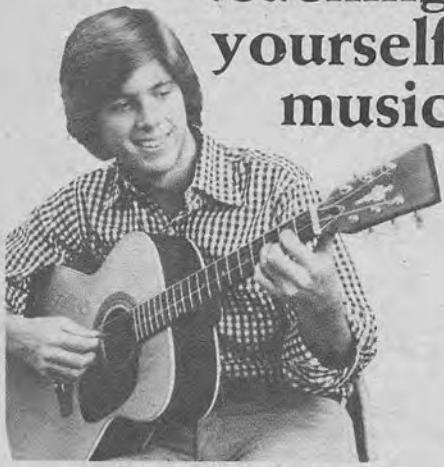
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# Andre's Change of Heart

(Continued from Page 31)



Andre battles huge Ernie Ladd (above) when Ernie held the Americas belt. Andre doesn't want regional titles though—he wants a world title! He got this title shot by defeating such top men as Black Gordman (below) and other NWA men who rarely go down in defeat.



intelligent in the world. They often write, begging me to consider going for one of the three major titles. Their pleas are often considered and eloquent. They've convinced me, more than they could have imagined.

"Every area has many fine fans who want me to be champion. I can please them all, just as they've pleased me all these years. I want to be everyone's champion!"

"I'm committed now to defeating Sammartino, Funk, and Bockwinkle. Any spare time is now devoted to devising strategies in defeating these men. Each is great; each requires elaborate maneuvers to defeat. So all my resources are now geared to my greatest quest. I believe I can succeed. The fans have given me that faith."

Often in the past, Andre claimed he never wanted the title. Because of that, his schedule wasn't geared for a championship assault. He has only battled one champion, Terry Funk. Can he change his schedule to warrant repeated chances at three titles?

"I've been giving schedule matters a lot of thought," Andre admits, "and have modified my plans to give me plenty of chances to defeat the top challengers. After defeating them, the champs will have to take me on."

"I was lucky to get the title shot against Funk. Top contenders in the area had a right to be angry. I have to be sure everyone regards me as a man

who has deserved the title shot, a man who belongs at the top of the division. I've got to do everything right.

"Naturally, I'll have to work three times as hard as anyone else. I've got to earn my shot in each division. Something this important, this historic, can't have the least bit of controversy surrounding it."

Many people believe with the large roster of challengers in each division, no single champion could satisfy them all and survive. The title would change with speedy regularity. One man could not withstand the steady onslaught of so many challengers.

"I think that would be true," Andre declares, "but only for the existing champions. No man can hope to remain champ when he's unfamiliar



Tough Gene Anderson is putty in Andre's hands when the Giant prepares to send him through the air for a hard, crash landing.

with two-thirds of his opponents. But I won't have that problem.

"Before I become champion, I'll have beaten most of the men who'll challenge me. I'll know their styles, know how to beat them. After having won the title, I'll have no trouble keeping it. At least, I won't have the same trouble another champion would have."

The quest has begun. Terry Funk was the first to feel the threat; he barely escaped with this title. Now the entire sport has been put on the alert. One man wants to make the sport whole again, be a champion without question. It will take a giant to accomplish this feat. Is Andre that giant? □

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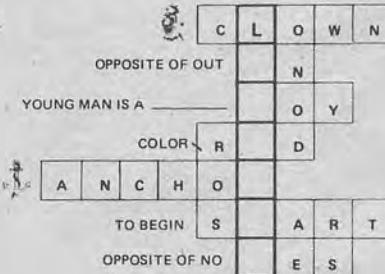
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## BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 18)



Above: Montreal police have to be called in to get Bull Curry out of the arena after an idiot started to riot. Nothing Curry could do in the ring would excuse these fans. Below: Lou Albano shows where he was slashed by a degenerate who owned a switchblade!



That kind of thinking went out the moment people decided to be civilized. We have laws to protect all people and we have people to enforce them. Trying to settle riots without the police is just what these cretins want! After all, no spectator is equipped as well as a policeman to fight back. Everytime a decent spectator tries to settle a disturbance himself, he's playing right into the hands of these degenerate slime.

Also, these clowns rarely pick on somebody who can give them a fair

fight. These slobs were born bullies, knowing almost instinctively who's the weakest one around. When they start a riot among the fans, they're always sure of attacking the weakest person. And when they attack a wrestler, you can bet these supposed lovers of justice attack him from behind!

Remember, they also hurt the innocent bystander. With my own eyes, I've seen a beautiful little girl who became ugly when some knife-wielding goon went wild and slashed recklessly in front of him. His knife found the young girl's face. It will cost her poor parents a fortune to get the plastic surgery to remove the hideous scars. Also, it will take years of psychotherapy before the child is mentally whole again.

And what of the snake who slashed her? He fled in the crowd and was never seen again. He couldn't get the wrestler he wanted, so he got a little girl instead. Does that makes sense to you? It made sense to this human flotsam!

Wrestling fans are the greatest in the world. However, a few malignant maniacs could very well ruin it for everyone! □

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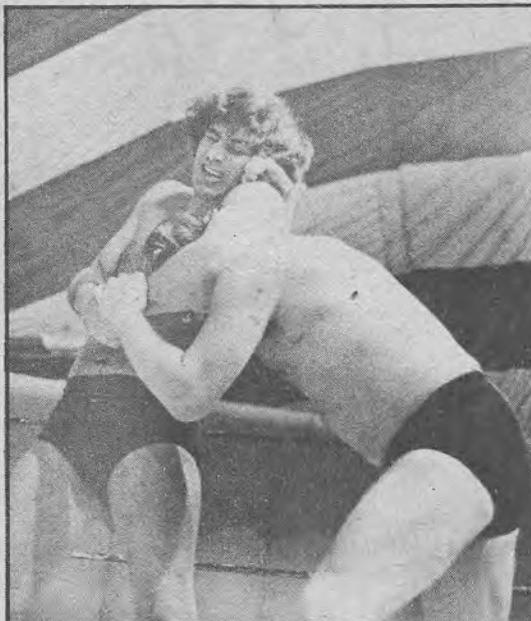
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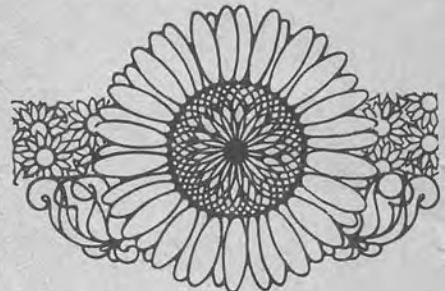
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(Continued from Page 42)



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## WHO WILL STAN HANSEN CRIPPLE NEXT?

(Continued from Page 47)



Hansen smashes Ivan's face into the canvas. As can be seen, Stan hasn't even had a moment to take off the outfit he wears into the ring. After the match, Putski was taken to a local New York Hospital. The Polish star had a sprained back from Hansen's torture.

Hansen. The shooting pains in Putski's back couldn't compare to the agony caused by his failure.

There was a period of minutes between the doctor's call for an ambulance and its arrival. Putski lay on the training table, bravely trying to stifle screams of pain. Other wrestlers stood around him, but they never seemed to get close. Athletes' greatest fear is of injury; they know careers can end with the swiftness of an enemy's maneuver. To be close to Putski would have been being close to disaster. No professional athlete is that brave.

Waiting for the ambulance, there was nothing to say and so nothing was said. Finally, the silence was broken by the ambulance's wail. Moments later, the huge body of Ivan Putski was on a stretcher being carried to the ambulance. No word was spoken in the dressing room until the siren's shriek had died away in the night.

"It should have at least taken longer," Strongbow mused. "A man shouldn't be savaged that quickly. The whole ordeal took less than five minutes! Less than five minutes!"

"It was a freak accident," White Wolf opined, but his voice lacked conviction. "Ivan got a huge gash across his forehead. He looked as if his skull exploded. The blood got

into his eyes, blinding him. Couldn't see, couldn't defend himself. He was a helpless target for Hansen. He could've given Ivan a break—but then he wouldn't have been that rat named Hansen. Don't expect mercy from Stan Hansen!"

Gorilla Monsoon walked slowly across the dressing room and sank heavily into a chair. When he spoke, his voice sounded distant. He really didn't know who he was addressing, but he felt something had to be said.

"I was there when Hansen crippled Bruno," he declared, "and I was here tonight. Will there be a next time? Will I have to watch another friend be hospitalized?"

"Ivan said he was seeking revenge for Bruno, making Hansen realize punishment must be exacted for what he did. Both times, Hansen used a loaded elbowpad when he felled our friends with his lariat. He might have used a blackjack. The effect was the same."

"He can't get away with that!" Haystacks Calhoun stormed.

"He does get away with it!" Monsoon countered. "He's hospitalized two of our best men with it! His reputation is being built over our broken bodies!" A convulsive shudder shook Monsoon's huge body before he continued, "There's

no denying he's successful.

"But getting back to what I started to say, Ivan tried to revenge Bruno. I don't know if Putski realized it or not, but he was also doing it for each and every one of us. We were pretty shaken by Bruno's injury. If you noticed, we began to talk about Hansen as if he was a superman, someone more powerful than anyone else. Tonight, Ivan tried to prove Hansen was equal or less than we are."

Inadvertantly, all eyes went to the training table where minutes before Ivan Putski had writhed in agony. Everyone thought, but no one said, Ivan had failed to prove Hansen was unconquerable.

"What we have to remember," Monsoon continued, "is that Ivan could have proven his point if not for that freak cut. I think we all know why the gash was so bad: Hansen used his loaded elbowpad! Stan Hansen can't cut a man that badly with only his elbow.

"It isn't Hansen who's beating us; it's the man who gives him the metal plate without the referee seeing. Hansen is only a tool for his manager, Freddie Blassie."

"Then let's get Blassie!" Haystacks Calhoun thundered.

"No," Monsoon declared, "the referees have to get Blassie. We'll tell the referees what to look for and signal the referee when we see Blassie with the metal. By using our heads, we can make sure there isn't a third victim for Hansen."

"We can't forget, though, that Stan Hansen can be beaten! We can do it. Every man in this room is better than he is!"

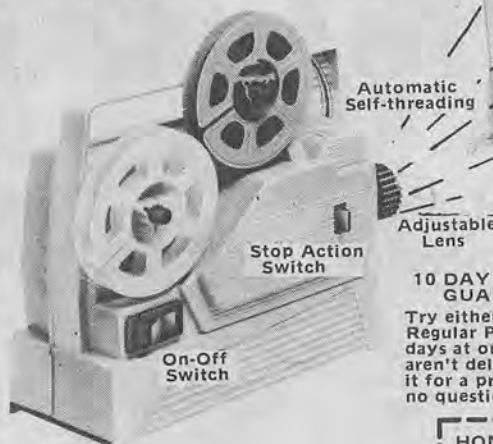
Monsoon was interrupted by the ringing of a telephone. He leaped to answer it. He talked for a few seconds and his face broke out into a huge grin. He talked a little more and then hung up.

"It was the hospital," he announced, "Ivan will be fine." He let the good news sink in before explaining, "All he suffered was a bad back strain. He'll be fine; the pain already has subsided. He'll be back before we know it!"

The pall of gloom which had choked the room disappeared. The men began to put on their street-clothes, ready to resume life. There would be no mourning this evening.

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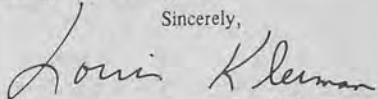
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